

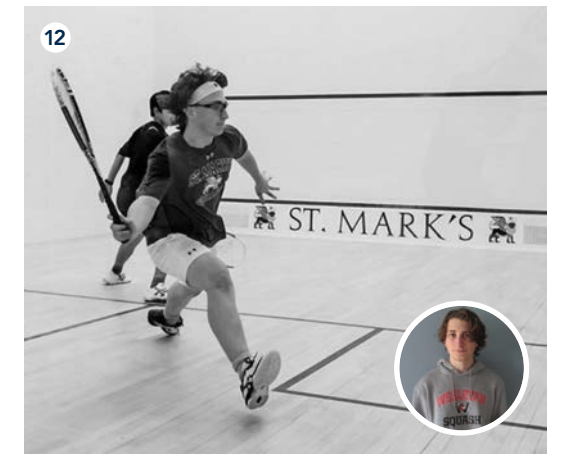
ST. MARK'S

THE MAGAZINE | FALL 2020



BECOMING ANTIRACIST

ST. MARK'S CONFRONTS ITS PAST—AND ITS PRESENT P. 14



MY ST. MARK'S

20 FOR '20

TWENTY MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 2020 have committed to participate in college and university athletic programs for the 2020-2021 academic year. Five are in Division I, one is playing in Division II, and 14 are suiting up for Division III programs.

"At St. Mark's, our coaches take great pride in preparing our student-athletes to play at the next level," says Director of Athletics John Levandowski. "It is a proud time for all."

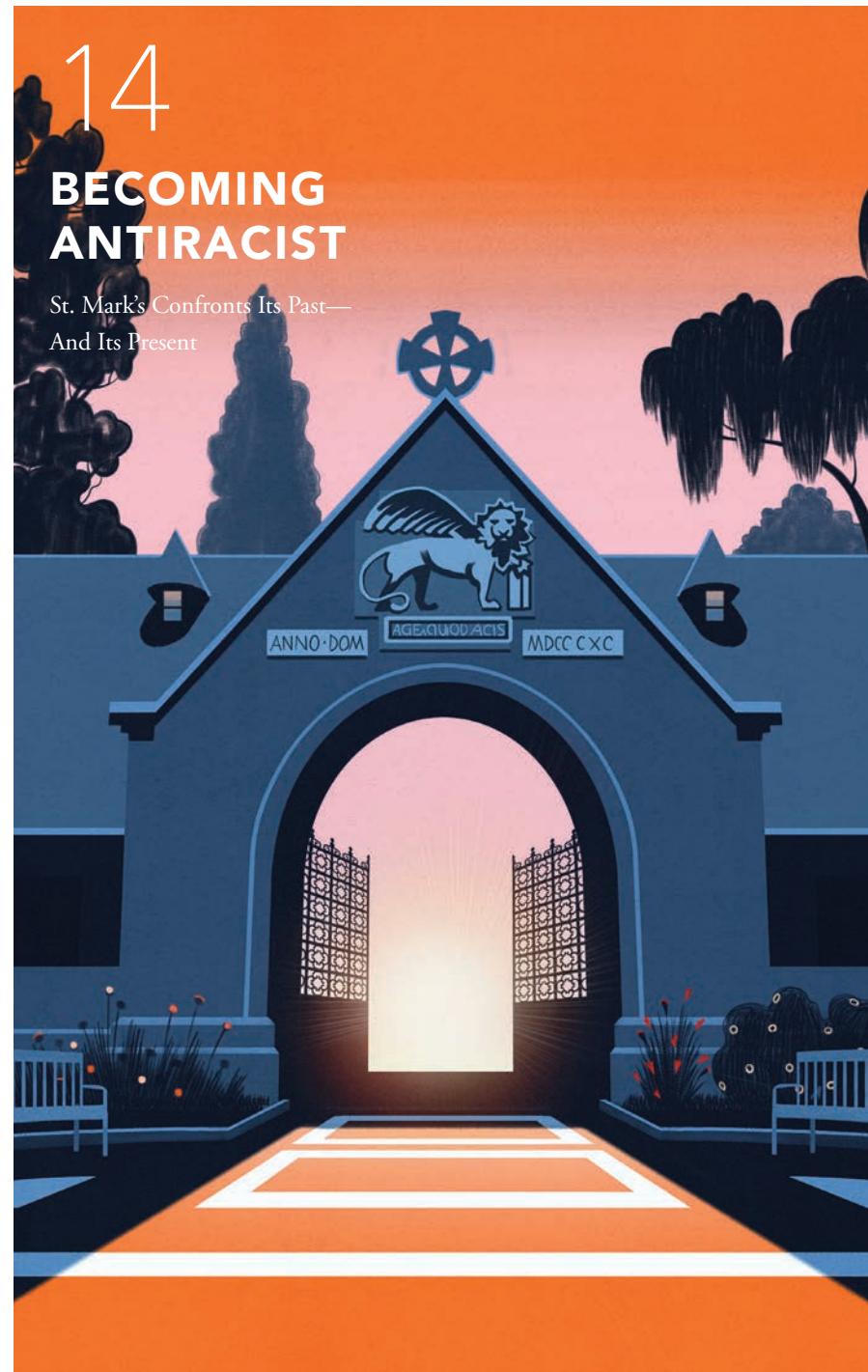


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|---|---|
| 1. Joe Felix, Worcester Polytechnic Institute | 11. Reese Hornstein, Connecticut College |
| 2. Will Bundy, Trinity College (Conn.) | 12. Dom Mongillo, Wesleyan University |
| 3. Madeleine Wass, Lafayette College | 13. Wyatt Scotti, Northeastern University |
| 4. Grace Gibbons, University of Massachusetts | 14. Brett Federico, St. Lawrence University |
| 5. Charlotte Galusza, Boston University | 15. Louis Lyons, Washington & Lee University |
| 6. Paula Hornbostel, Tufts University | 16. Sophie Student, Virginia Tech |
| 7. Jordan Uzochukwu, Colby College | 17. Phoebe Macleod, Bucknell University |
| 8. Noah Robb, Bowdoin College | 18. JB Clarence, Wentworth Institute of Tech. |
| 9. Von Mabbs, Swarthmore College | 19. Bobby Sommers, Amherst College |
| 10. Hunter Mulvey, Assumption College | 20. Ava Limonciello, Trinity University (Texas) |

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Remote learning takes center stage



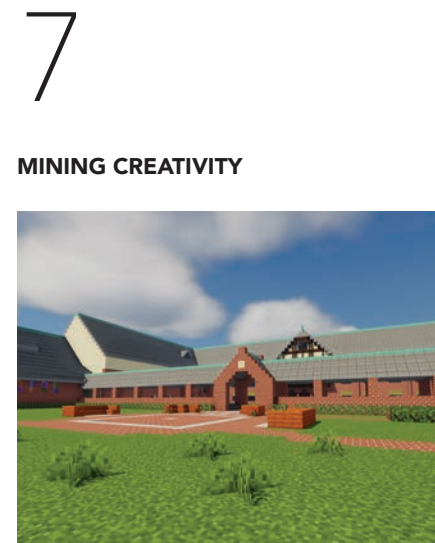
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Visit www.artcubearmy.com
to see what Carrie Hill '98
is up to.

ST. MARK'S MAGAZINE

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A Commitment to Change

AS I REFLECT ON WHAT has taken place since the last issue of *St. Mark's Magazine* was published, it is hard to believe. The heinous killings of Black Americans have brought the issues of police brutality and systemic racism into sharp focus. COVID-19 has claimed the lives of more than a million people around the world, with nearly a quarter of those deaths here in the United States. The U.S. unemployment rate increased 10 percent in one month. To say that 2020 has been a challenging year would be an enormous understatement.

And yet, as I look back on the work of St. Markers over the course of the past several months, I cannot help but be inspired. The pivot last spring from in-person to remote learning happened very quickly. At St. Mark's, this transition, though not seamless, was made with thoughtfulness, creativity, attention to detail, and with the needs of our students at the center of every decision we made.

I am also inspired when I think back on the work of our faculty to prepare

for a robust and inspiring program of hybrid learning this fall. This summer, all faculty members participated in immersive training in hybrid course design, guided by research and best practices identified by Colleen Worrell, director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. Our approach to hybrid learning—blending best practices of online and in-person pedagogy—was also informed by feedback from students and families in our spring remote learning period, which included a desire for more consistent and user-friendly standards of course design, and more personal touchpoints for instruction and collaborative learning.

The tragic killings of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd are the latest cases in a troubling pattern of violence against Black Americans, and prompted deep reflection and calls for action by St. Mark's students, alumni, faculty and staff, and other community members. The Instagram account @Blackatsm has provided an important forum for

Black members of our community to share stories of their experiences at St. Mark's. I have found these stories to be painful, sad, and troubling. The testimonials present a call for St. Mark's to commit comprehensively, in actions as well as words, to anti-racist work. In July, I shared the School's first steps in the work of making St. Mark's an antiracist school. You can read more about these steps on page 17.

The Board of Trustees has offered its full support for these steps, which represent only the first in a series that St. Mark's will take in the coming weeks, months, and years in the interest of making St. Mark's a truly antiracist School and a truly inclusive community. I look forward to this work, and I look forward to feedback from all of you as we engage in these efforts.

John C. Warren
JOHN C. WARREN '74, ED.D.
HEAD OF SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN DOOHER

IN BRIEF

LESSON PLAN

Remote Control

Nat Waters,
Dean of Academics

Building a remote learning program from scratch wasn't on the "to do" list for St. Mark's Dean of Academics Nat Waters or his faculty colleagues this spring, but the arrival of COVID-19 forced the task to the top of the docket in March. We checked in with Nat in the spring to learn more about the process of developing and launching a comprehensive online program for 364 St. Markers spread across 17 time zones.

When it became clear that St. Mark's would need to move to remote learning, what were your immediate concerns?

The backdrop of global instability around COVID-19 and its impacts on our diverse community of students and adults was the biggest driver of concern. As it became clear that we would be learning remotely for a longer duration, we were aware that we needed to ensure equitable access for all of our students. We reached out to students to address challenges around technology and access to connectivity. In building our approach, we adopted some "simple rules": "Keep it Simple," "Be Flexible," and "Communicate, Communicate, Communicate." Simplicity reminds us to build around familiar tools

(CONTINUED...)

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM RICHINS

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

(our learning management system, for example). Flexibility helped us to meet our students where they are, both in terms of scheduling and grace with deadlines. Clear and regular communication became important since we would no longer be physically present together. Finally, we knew we had to preserve a sense of community, so we worked to sustain advising relationships and familiar community gathering points of Chapel and School Meeting in a remote format.

How were you able to build this program in such a short period of time? What resources were especially helpful to you and your colleagues?

There was tremendous generosity of spirit in the education community about sharing resources and ideas. Over spring break, I joined faculty colleagues in a free online course, “Designing for Online Learning,” offered by Global Online Academy. This course was tremendously useful in the formulation of our plan. I was also fortunate to join assistant heads and deans of academics from area independent schools on Zoom calls to share ideas and help with problem-solving. Finally, the formation of an ad-hoc St. Mark’s remote learning team brought together great wisdom from the Academics Office, the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, and the Academic Technology and Technology teams, and allowed us to move nimbly and build resources to help students and faculty make a rapid adaptation to this new way of learning.

Some subjects and courses lend themselves more readily to remote learning, and some don’t translate as obviously online. How did teachers make some of

these subjects successful in a remote environment?

Twitter founder Biz Stone has noted that “constraint inspires creativity”—a truth that has been borne out for us at St. Mark’s in remote learning. So we know that there is already a tremendous amount of creativity across the curriculum. That said, the disciplines in the area of the house traditionally labeled “creative”—visual and performing arts—have embraced the limitations presented by the remote format, designing opportunities for students to come together around the core skills of their disciplines—observation, expression, and critique. As in other disciplines, communities of educators have sprung up on social networks to share approaches and projects that translate well to the remote format. We are most fortunate to have our Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning to collect and share ideas, and provide direct support to faculty in learning new skills and approaches.

COVID-19 has provided some opportunities for creative thinking on the part of both students and teachers. What can you share about students and teachers working creatively during this time?



Nat Waters and family at their home on campus.

I have nothing but admiration for the creativity that my faculty colleagues have applied to their courses, and our students deserve some of the spotlight as well. Ms. Caron, advisor to *LEO*, our academic journal, shared a remote learning issue, animated by student work in the humanities. Our literary magazine, *Vindex*, has also featured videos from students describing their creative processes and workspaces. I am in awe of students who have reached across physical distance to share slices of their home lives, along with their enthusiasm and creative lenses with peers, including filmmaker Julian Yang ’20 and his Chapel speech on “accidents,” singer/songwriter Frances Hornbostel ’21, and visual artist Jenny Tang ’20. In a curious way, members of the community—students and faculty alike—are working harder to share their creative gifts back into the community, and we are enriched by the chance to see and hear them.

Are there takeaways that St. Mark’s will be able to apply to its standard curriculum when fully in-person courses resume?

The key shift we have emphasized is that teachers should be thinking of themselves as “designers of learning.” Presenting materials in a more asynchronous format to a diffuse community of students has brought a heightened awareness of how students will interact with the material, and how we can still be “present” in the digital elements of our courses. Teachers have learned to articulate a clear and visually engaging weekly plan for their class to help with student navigation and “wayfinding,” and to explain how each assignment connects to their overall learning goals for the course. If students understand the “why” of their learning, they will be more motivated to stick with the work of the course.

—CALEB COCHRAN

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM RICHINS

MINING CREATIVITY

ENGAGING IN HANDS-ON work remotely is not without obstacles for science students, but one creative band of St. Mark’s engineers took a proactive approach to their subject this spring, using the video game Minecraft.

“The St. Mark’s engineering class is a project-based, hands-on approach to engineering,” says teacher Rob Bauer. “Students work on projects of their choosing throughout the year. Just a couple of months into 2020, the class faced its biggest engineering challenge to date: COVID-19.”

Class of 2020 graduates Blake Gattuso, Nathaniel King, Aditya Mynampaty, and Will Osborne—calling themselves “The Treehouse Group”—had been building a viewing platform for the St. Mark’s cross country course when COVID-19 brought their project to a complete stop. But “adversity is the mother of invention,” says Bauer. “With remote learning underway, our intrepid team of engineers decided to continue their work virtually, and they built their viewing platform in the world of Minecraft.”

Minecraft is a “sandbox” video game in which participants create and build their own environment. Bauer, immediately impressed with the students’ work on the platform project, soon had a question: “Can you build all of St. Mark’s in Minecraft?”

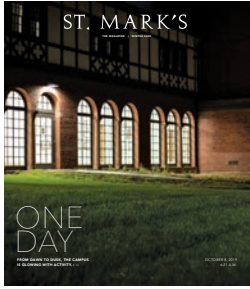
The original Treehouse Group—joined by V Former Tommy Flathers—took the challenge head-on. They began to build a block-based virtual St. Mark’s campus, including the exterior view of the Main Building, the front of the School, the interior of Belmont Chapel, and the main Dining Hall.

Students at MIT, Boston University, Emerson College, and Berklee College of Music, among others, have also turned to Minecraft to collaborate on virtual-campus projects during COVID-19. “This is college-level stuff,” Bauer says. “It is a massive undertaking, but they love it. And if you love it, it isn’t work.”

—NICK NOBLE ’76



PHOTOGRAPH PROVIDED BY ADITYA MYNAMPATY



INBOX

Redesign Reviewed

The new magazine is high up on the list of changes and improvements at St. Mark's since I graduated. Congratulations to everyone who played a part in this. Looking forward to future editions.

—EDWARD A. HIRSCH '50

Nice job! Very neat "One Day" photo essay and good mix of stories and extended length Class Notes. Better mix of photos and graphics and not such a heavy text focus of prior issues. Best wishes and keep up the good work.

—JOHN MANCHESTER '70

Congratulations to the reimagination/design team behind the new magazine. You've hit it out the park with a striking balance of authority, playfulness, stateliness, creativity, informativeness, narrative vs. imagery, warmth and nostalgia. It's both modern and timeless, the content interesting, relevant and inspiring even to this old-timer. The day-in-the-life feature brought me back like nothing else I've seen from the School since graduation, choking me up a bit with memories as I took in the scenes of people learning, teaching, competing and playing in places familiar and new. Bravo!

—PETER HAWES '74

Please send your thoughts on St. Mark's Magazine to editor@stmarksschool.org.

Answering the Call

AMES SCOTT '23 was hunkered down at home in March like so many others when her mother, Alys Reynnders Scott ’85, called her attention to the Emerson Hospital website.

“They were running out of masks and were asking for help,” Ames says.

Guided by a tutorial on the Emerson website, the III Former from Concord, Mass., got to work. Scott soon ran out of the quarter-inch elastic needed to hold the masks in place. When she discovered that there was no more quarter-inch elastic to be found anywhere, she bought one-inch elastic and carefully cut each strip into fourths. “That took time,” she says, “but pinning the fabric to make each mask was the most time-consuming part of the process.”

Melissa Anderson, associate director of advancement services, also made masks from her home in Worcester. “I needed to feel that I was doing something,” says Anderson, a St. Mark’s staff member since 2010. “Something to give me purpose in the middle of all of this.” A friend who is a nurse at the Lahey Clinic told her about the shortage of face masks for healthcare workers and sick patients. “It’s so important that we be a part of something that can make a difference,” Anderson says.

—NICK NOBLE ’76



WELCOME TO ST. MARK’S

Dr. John Daves

Director of Community and Equity Affairs

ST. MARK’S HEAD of School John C. Warren ’74 recently announced the appointment of John Daves to the position of director of community and equity affairs. Dr. Daves joined St. Mark’s on July 1.

Most recently upper school principal at Carolina Day School in Asheville, N.C., Dr. Daves has also served as dean of faculty at the Pennington School in Pennington, N.J.; director of diversity and inclusion and English teacher at Park Tudor School in Indianapolis; and English teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy, Montgomery Blair High School (Silver Spring, Md.), and Friends Central School (Wynnewood, Penn.).

“One of the many features of Dr. Daves’ background that made his candidacy stand out,” said Warren, “is the thought leadership he has exhibited in each of his schools in the approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion both inside and outside the classroom.”

Dr. Daves is a graduate of the Pennington School, earned his B.A. in political science at Susquehanna University, M.A.T. in English at Colgate University, and his Ph.D. in American studies at the University of Maryland. Dr. Daves’ dissertation is entitled “Raising Black Dreams: Representations of Six Generations of a Family’s



Local Racial Activist Traditions (1845-2006).”

“During these challenging times in all of our lives, I am excited to listen, learn, and contribute to how St. Mark’s School prepares students to serve the world as leaders,” Dr. Daves says. “I hope to use some of my own experiences to inspire faculty, students, and staff to communicate about their own identity stories; coordinate what we have learned for our own communal growth; and collaborate and creatively reflect by developing self awareness skills from each other. I hope that our work together will demonstrate why we as a school community are engaged learners, preparing ourselves to lead today to make a better tomorrow.”

Dr. Daves follows Loris Adams, who served in the position from 2016 through this past July and is now director of equity and community life at the Hewitt School, an independent K-12 girls’ day school in New York City.

Jeniene Matthews (L) and Seth Brodeur.

PRIZES REWARD COVID-19 SERVICE

Two members of the St. Mark’s community were recognized in June with year-end prizes for outstanding service to the School during a most unusual academic year.

Jeniene Matthews, English Department faculty member and digital learning coach for faculty, was awarded the George Howell Kidder Faculty Prize, established by Kidder’s children at the time of his retirement from the St. Mark’s Board of Trustees. This prize is awarded by the head of school to a faculty member who has contributed to St. Mark’s above and beyond the ordinary and who has shown the same love of learning, compassion, and commitment to excellence which marked Kidder’s life.

In nominating Matthews for the award, one faculty colleague noted, “as we faced additional challenges with the pandemic, Jeniene did a phenomenal job helping fellow teachers transition to remote learning with a zeal for new ideas and a saint-like patience for the technologically challenged.”

Seth Brodeur, help desk technician in the Technology Department, received the Class of 1961 Frederick M. Burr Staff Prize, established by the Class of 1961 on the occasion of their 40th reunion to honor one of their teachers, Fred Burr, and his emphasis on the contribution of staff to the quality of the education provided by St. Mark’s. The Burr Prize is awarded annually by the head of school to a member of the staff who demonstrates extraordinary support of the work of St. Mark’s adults and students.

Brodeur was praised by colleagues as a “knight in shining armor,” “calmly patient whether assisting students or adults,” and “consistently going above and beyond to provide the highest level of service possible to make sure that faculty, staff, and students feel respected, understood, and have their issues resolved as quickly as possible.”

Well-deserved congratulations to Jeniene and Seth.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM RICHINS (DAVES), NATALIE HEBERT (MATTHEWS), AL WILLIAMS (BRODEUR)

BY THE NUMBERS

SURVEY SAYS...

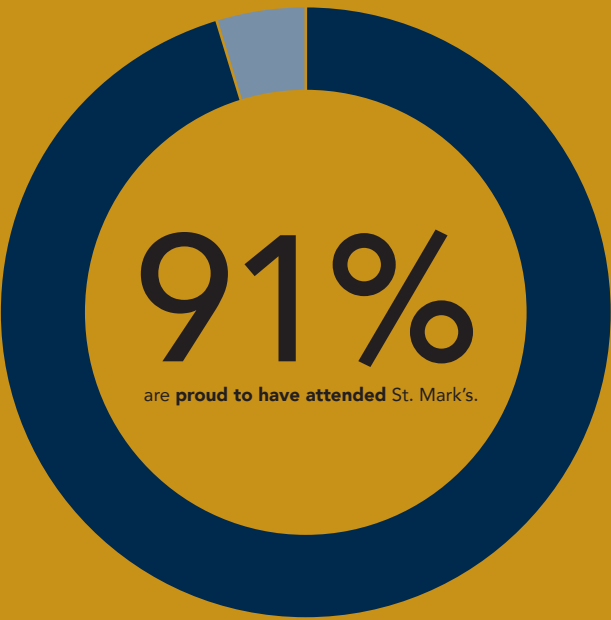
ST. MARK’S CONDUCTED its first-ever comprehensive alumni survey in April. A sampling of what we learned:



Alumni participated from **28** different countries, **40** different U.S. states, and up to **9,409** miles from campus.



*Percentages reflect **all respondents** unless indicated. The survey was sent to 3,250 alumni for whom the School has email addresses; 665 people completed the survey and 283 completed portions of it.



1 IN 4 ALUMNI have **donated** in each of the past five years.



81% say the physical attractiveness and facilities at St. Mark’s are a **source of pride**.



91% are **satisfied** or **very satisfied** with their experience as a student at St. Mark’s.



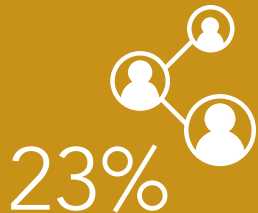
1 IN 4 **speak another language** besides English.



have **made a financial donation** to St. Mark’s.



would **send their own children** to St. Mark’s.



use the St. Mark’s Alumni app.

INSIDE MY WORLD

BASE CAMP

John Camp, English Teacher and Director of Experiential Learning

FOR ENGLISH TEACHER and Director of Experiential Learning John Camp (who goes by “Camp”), the move to remote learning in March meant the relocation of his classes from the English Wing to the virtual platform Zoom, via the School Street home he shares with his wife Tara of the St. Mark’s Admission Office and their three children. As in his classroom, Camp surrounds himself at home with an eclectic collection of inspiring books and artifacts.

1, 2. “My main work area is an Ikea chaise in the corner of my living room,” Camp says. “When I’m not in my classroom or office during regular school, this is where I do my work. The two key pieces: my MacBook and my son Desi’s clipboard. This is where I teach him ELA and science every day.”

3. “My 11-year old daughter, Joss, planted these birds on my books because that shelf is in the background for my Zoom classes and meetings. Every day she asks, ‘Did anyone notice them yet and say anything?’”

4. “Top shelf: *Star Wars Rebels* Pops! figures. An excellent TV series and helpful for my VI Form course, ‘Rebels with a Cause.’”

5, 6. “The John Locke and Jack Shepard figures from *LOST* symbolize well what my ‘Getting *LOST*’ class focuses on: leadership and philosophy, psychology, and sociology. Both characters have different leadership styles on the

island, and Locke is considered a ‘man of faith’ while Jack is seen as a ‘man of science.’ These elements are prevalent in Huxley’s *Island* and Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, which are the primary texts in the course. To the left in the bookcase is a Pop! of Hurley from *LOST*, who is metaphorical for the kind, whimsical, and benevolent character Gonzalo in *The Tempest*.”

7. On the bookshelf is a work that inspired me toward English early in my life. I read Dickens’ *Great Expectations* in ninth grade and remember not being quite impressed, but reread it in college at Middlebury for a 19th-century novel class and in my graduate program at Dartmouth for a Victorian city class. All three of those readings frame how I teach. I have to make certain books interesting to high school students, and focusing on a specific theme when reading a novel can help a reader focus and appreciate a text in a new way.”



Chewie.

PHOTOGRAPH BY JOSS CAMP



CELEBRATE

St. Mark’s School’s 155th Prize Day graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, June 6, via Zoom. Eighty-three VI Formers officially graduated from the School. An in-person ceremony is scheduled to take place on campus in June 2021. An alumnus, a longtime trustee, and a St. Mark’s grandparent, the Right Reverend J. Clark Grew ’58, retired Episcopal Bishop of Ohio, delivered the keynote address, while Jack Griffin ’20 was the valedictorian. In a separate online ceremony on June 4, the following prizes were awarded:

GEORGE HOWELL KIDDER FACULTY PRIZE: Jeniene Matthews, English Department	FREDERICK A. CAMMANN '47 MUSIC PRIZE: Ning (Richard) Zhang '21	ROY IRVING MURRAY PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SACRED STUDIES: Lanruo (Lora) Xie '20	MORRIS H. MORGAN PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN GREEK: Julian Yang '20	DR. AND MRS. WILLIAM THAYER SCHOLARSHIP: Beining (Cathy) Zhou '21	PIERSON F. MELCHER PRIZE: Kendall Sommers '22
CLASS OF 1961 FREDERICK M. BURR STAFF PRIZE: Seth Brodeur, Technology Department	J. STANLEY SHEPPARD MUSIC PRIZE: John Ryder Henry '20	H. CASIMIR DE RHAM PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN FRENCH: Frances Hornbostel '20	FREDERIC A. FLICHTNER PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN HISTORY: Louis Vance Lyons '20	BRANTWOOD PRIZE: Nathaniel Thomas Meigs King '20, Catherine Ann Pellini '20	DOUGLAS H. T. BRADLEE SCHOLARSHIP: Yevheniia (Jane) Dubrova '20
JOHN A. CAREY PRIZE: Yujing (Jenny) Tang '20	WALTER IRVING BADGER PRIZE IN DRAMATICS: Illia Rebechar '20	JOHN RICHARD WHITE PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN GERMAN: Sarah Lammert '21	GEORGE HALL BURNETT PRIZE IN HISTORY: John (Jack) Francis Griffin '20	HEAD MONITOR PRIZE: Ashley Crystal Battiatia '20, Alexander Nash Summers '20	DANIEL B. FEARING ATHLETIC PRIZES: Grace Palmer Elizabeth Gibbons '20, Jonathan Tucker Hartmann '20
CARLETON BURR RAND PRIZE: Yunkyu (Luke) Lee '20, Julian Yang '20	FREDERICK R. AVIS AND ANNA M. PLISCZ SCIENCE PRIZES: John (Jack) Francis Griffin '20, Noah Lovell Robb '20	PETER BRYCE APPLETON PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN SPANISH: Lina Zhang '21	ELY PRIZE IN PUBLIC SPEAKING: Carlisle Brush '23	JOHN AND ELIZABETH MUNROE PRIZE: Kendall Sommers '22	THE HAROLD HAYES PRIZE: Ashley Crystal Battiatia '20
COLEMAN PRIZE IN ENGLISH: Cadence Summers '21	PHILIP GALLATIN CAMMANN '14 STEM PRIZE: Yujing (Jenny) Tang '20	CHINESE LANGUAGE PRIZE: Helen Zhu Huang '20	SHEN PRIZE: Cadence Summers '21	ASSOCIATION OF ST. MARK'S SCHOOL PRIZE: Jonathan Tucker Hartmann '20	ST. MARK'S PRIZE FOR EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING: Catherine Ann Pellini '20
WILLIAM OTIS SMITH PRIZE FOR ENGLISH VERSE: Lina Zhang '21	EDWARD A. TAFT '69 COMPUTER SCIENCE PRIZE: Yuxuan (Jason) Chen '20	HENRY P. KIDDER PRIZE FOR EXCELLENCE IN LATIN: Yunkyu (Luke) Lee '20	WILLIAM G. THAYER SCHOLARSHIP FUND PRIZES: Ashley Crystal Battiatia '20, Sophie Elizabeth Student '20, Beining (Cathy) Zhou '21, Peiyun (Reina) Wang '22, Alden Charles Mehta '23	CHARLES WILLARD BIGELOW PRIZE: Libby Flathers '21	WILLIAM TOWNSEND WHITE SCHOLARSHIP: Laura Elvira Sabino '20
REDMOND PRIZE FOR ENGLISH NARRATIVE: Lina Zhang '21	JOHN SUYDAM MATHEMATICS PRIZE: Lanruo (Lora) Xie '20			HENRY NICHOLS ERVIN SCHOLARSHIP: Paula Tracy Hornbostel '20	

PHOTOGRAPH BY PANFOTO

CHATTER

PERSISTENCE PERSONIFIED

For three years, **Christian Dwirantwi '21** has been a dedicated member of the St. Mark's wrestling team. The Norwood, Pennsylvania native was rewarded with an All-Independent School League honorable mention selection last season. Beyond the wrestling mat, Chris is a hard-working student, a loyal friend, and a cheerful presence around campus.

HOW DID YOU GET STARTED IN WRESTLING?

I got started in wrestling when I came to St. Mark's. I had never wrestled before. During my III Form year, I thought I wanted to play basketball because that is what I did in the 8th grade. Then I realized that St. Mark's allows us the opportunity to try new things, so I figured I would try out wrestling.

AS A WRESTLER, WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO, AND WHO INFLUENCED YOU THE MOST?

The number-one person that comes to mind is my older brother, Micah, who was one of the captains last year and graduated from St. Mark's in 2019. Whenever my brother stepped onto the mat, he was humble, but with confidence in himself. I admired that about him a lot. Another person who comes to mind is Kareem Chambers '19,

Christian earned All-
ISL honorable mention
recognition in each of the
last two seasons.



who was a captain last year with my brother. Kareem was one of my practice partners last year and always gave me 100 percent when we wrestled. He encouraged me to try new moves and take risks. Also, my coach, Dave Nelson, continues to inspire me and sees my potential to be one of the best in New England.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME TO ST. MARK'S?

I came to St. Mark's because I thought the School provided a great opportunity to learn, not only academically but also about other people's cultures and lifestyles, especially since I come from a family in which my dad is from Ghana, West Africa.

BEYOND SPORTS, WHAT HAS BEEN SPECIAL ABOUT YOUR ST. MARK'S EXPERIENCE?

The bonds you make in the dorm are very special. There's nothing better than chilling in the dorms with your friends on a late Saturday night: playing video games, watching movies, or just listening to music together. I became a lot closer to all the boys in Sawyer last year, and it's all thanks to the special close community that St. Mark's has.

—NICK NOBLE '76

14-10-2

Powered by a dominant defense (allowing just 1.88 goals per game with seven shutouts), girls' varsity hockey went 14-10-2 in the regular season, earning their first postseason berth in 22 years. Among those leading the defense were MVP Alicia Souliotis '21 and veteran goaltender Lydia Rascher '20. Avery McInerny '22 was the team's leading scorer.



Boys' varsity squash, led by MVP Ryder Henry '20 and All-ISL Preston Dotson '21, also received the coveted ISL team Sportsmanship Award.

28

This past winter, 28 St. Markers earned All-Independent School League (ISL) honors, highlighting the strong season for St. Mark's athletics.

WINTER SPORTS WRAP-UP

GIRLS' VARSITY SQUASH 14-5 (.737) regular season; 17-6 (.739) overall; MVP – Samantha Leslie '20 MIP – Lily Walsh '22 ISL HM – Leslie, Paula Hornbostel '20

BOYS' VARSITY HOCKEY 22-4-2 (.857) regular season; 22-5-2 (.828) overall; ISL Eberhart Division Champions; MVP – Danny Ciccarello '20 MIP – Will Bundy '20 Maker Prize – Ciccarello Tudor Prize – Tucker Hartmann '20 All-ISL – Ciccarello, Brendan Gibbons '21, Hartmann, Ian Moore '21 ISL HM – Will Bundy '20, Jackson Coutu '21, Von Mabbs '20, Dominic Murphy '22, Jake Oblak '21, Trevor O'Brien '21 ISL MVP – Ciccarello ISL Flood Shield – Hartmann

GIRLS' VARSITY HOCKEY 14-10-2 (.577) regular season; 14-11-2 (.537) overall; MVP – Alicia Souliotis '21 MIP – Kaitlyn Breslin '23 Maker Prize – Avery McInerny '22 Frey Prize – Helen Huang '20 All-ISL – Souliotis, Erin Murray '21 ISL HM – Lydia Rascher '20, Lauren Tolve '21, McInerny

VARSITY WRESTLING 12-4 (.750); MVP – Louis Lyons '20 MIP – Andy Zhou '22 Coe Prize – Luis Perez '20 All-ISL – Lyons ISL HM – Perez, Tom Banse '20, Christian Dwirantwi '21, Caleb Bloch '22, Andy Zhou '22 All-New England – Lyons, Perez, Dwirantwi

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL 10-13 (.435); MVP – Bobby Sommers '20 MIP – JB Clarence '20 Robb Award – Robert Taylor '21 All-ISL – Sommers, Taylor

BOYS' VARSITY SQUASH 8-11 (.421) ISL Sportsmanship Award MVP – Ryder Henry '20 MIP – Jack Cai '21 ISL HM – Preston Dotson '21

GIRLS' VARSITY BASKETBALL 5-17 (.227) ISL Sportsmanship Award MVP – Niki Noel '20 MIP – Kerry Oblak '23 Robb Award – Erin O'Keefe '22 ISL HM – Ava Limonciello '20, Noel NEPSAC Class B East All-Star – Limonciello



22-4-2 Boys' varsity hockey set a new team mark for regular season victories, posting a record of 22-4-2 for the 2020 campaign before falling to Pomfret in the New England Preparatory School Athletic Association (NEPSAC) playoffs. The Lions' leading scorer, Danny Ciccarello '20, was the team MVP. Ciccarello was also named MVP of the Independent School League. His fellow co-captain, Tucker Hartmann '20, was also honored by the ISL. Hartmann was recipient of the league's Flood Shield, as the ISL player "whose enthusiasm for hockey and true devotion to the game is marked by his playing ability and physical toughness, yet whose competitive spirit is balanced by emotional control and a desire to play within the rules of the game."

HOOP HEROES

BOYS' VARSITY BASKETBALL quintupled its number of victories over the previous winter campaign, while two St. Mark's basketball players—VI Formers Bobby Sommers and Ava Limonciello (left)—reached the career 1,000-point scoring mark for boys' and girls' varsity basketball, respectively. Sommers was MVP for the St. Mark's boys, while Limonciello (a three-time St. Mark's MVP) earned New England Prep School Athletic Conference All-Star recognition. Limonciello's fellow co-captain, Niki Noel '20, a record-setting rebounder, was the MVP of the 2020 St. Mark's girls' team, which was also honored with the ISL team Sportsmanship Award on the season.



WIEDERGOTT AWARD (best winning percentage at any level)

Girls' 3rds Squash (.900) 14 regular season victories and 17 wins overall, finishing second at the Nationals and third in New England. MVP Samantha Leslie '20 was key to the success of coach Shelly Killen's nationally ranked team.





St. Mark's
Confronts
Its Past—and
Its Present

BECOMING ANTIRACIST

BY KRISTEN WALSH, NICK NOBLE '76, AND CALEB COCHRAN
ILLUSTRATION BY FRANCESCO BONGIORNI

The truth is often uncomfortable.

“Aspects of St. Mark’s past are ugly—there is no other way to put it,” Head of School John C. Warren ’74 wrote in response to powerful stories of racism that St. Mark’s alumni, students, and former faculty members have shared on social media through the @BlackatSM Instagram account, which launched in June.

Some experiences took place many years ago, while others are much more recent. Together, the accounts paint a troubling picture of the experiences of Black St. Mark’s students.



“When I was elected Monitor, I remember overhearing two of my white counterparts hypothesize that I must have been the faculty’s choice,” wrote one alumnus.

A member of the Class of 1999 recalled: “First week at SM—I was told I was too Black to be speaking Spanish and that I was no longer in the hood and should stick to speaking English.”

The posts resonated with Michael Boulware Moore ’80, a member of the School’s Board of Trustees. “I was admitted to the School, but I was never really let in,” Moore says. “It was a distinction that was very clear and very painful.”

Many independent schools have launched “Blackat” social media accounts, including Independent School League peers Brooks, Governor’s Academy, Groton, Middlesex, Milton, Nobles, Rivers, Tabor, and Thayer, as well as Andover, Deerfield, Exeter, Choate Rosemary Hall, and many other independent schools throughout the country.

The public outcry, which includes social media posts and protests, was inspired not only by the killings of Black Americans Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd—Floyd and Taylor at the hands of police officers—but

“I was admitted to the School, but I was never really let in.”

—MICHAEL BOULWARE MOORE ’80

by a larger pattern of systemic racism in the United States. Research shows that Black Americans are more than twice as likely as white Americans to be the subject of a racially motivated hate crime, and also more than twice as likely to be the victim of a fatal police shooting.

A CULTURE SHIFT

Brittany Bing ’15 launched @BlackatSM on June 17. “As a student at St. Mark’s, I was passionate about encouraging dialogue and encouraging difficult conversations for students and people in the community,” she says. “I thought that this would be the perfect opportunity to do so for this moment.”

At the time, she never imagined how quickly it would build momentum. As of early October, the account had more than 1,500 followers.

“I didn’t really expect so many allies to be engaged with the content; I didn’t expect that many people to care,” Bing says. “That just shows the cultural shift that’s taking place, because when I was at St. Mark’s, conversations about race were like pulling teeth. But the response from the School community has made me sheepishly optimistic about the pace of change and how people are changing their attitudes toward Black Lives Matter, systemic racism, and antiracism.”

Taren Bradley ’93 agrees. “If you’re allowing students to freely have those conversations, you’re also allowing the administration to help fix it and help work through it.”



“As a student at St. Mark’s, I was passionate about encouraging dialogue and difficult conversations.”

—BRITTANY BING ’15

Bradley says it was the @BlackatSM page and a petition created by the Pathways Prefects that “really put a fire under a lot of BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, and people of color] alumni. It made us see that the students can’t do this alone. We understood the exact same feelings that they have, and we’re not going to let anyone sweep it under the rug as unnecessary feelings—not only at the School, but at other institutions and in the workforce.”

The petition created by the Pathways Prefects—Bannon Jones ’21, Vianey Morris ’21, Daniella Pozo ’22, and

ACTION STEPS

On July 9, Head of School John C. Warren ’74 shared the School’s first action steps in the work of making St. Mark’s an antiracist school. Here are those steps, as explained by Mr. Warren:

1. An Anti-Racism Task Force will identify action steps for St. Mark’s to take both inside and outside the classroom so that St. Mark’s is an antiracist school. I have heard the demand for a task force to develop an antiracist curriculum that is mandatory for all students. This demand is entirely appropriate. In addition to the necessary curricular work, I recognize that we also have work to do in other areas of School life. As St. Mark’s is a school committed to educating the whole student, I want an antiracist Task Force to have a more extensive focus. The Task Force, reporting to me, will be led by Director of Community and Equity Affairs John Daves and will address the curricular need identified in the petition and also address needs that exist elsewhere in the academic program and in other areas of the School like the residence halls, athletics, and the arts.

2. Faculty and staff members will engage in mandatory antiracist professional development programming. Every year, all faculty and staff members will participate in at least one daylong on-campus professional development program on race. In addition, all faculty will be required to attend a regional or national diversity conference at least every three years.

3. St. Mark’s counseling services will expand to include additional resources for students of color, and specifically Black students. We will have on campus, starting in 2020-2021, a health professional of color with expertise in supporting students of color. That health professional will also provide expertise to help our current counselors increase their skills and knowledge for their work with students of color. In addition, we will implement a confidential process for reporting on and vigorously addressing incidents of bias that occur on our campus.

Samantha Wang '21—called for the School to design and implement a mandatory antiracist curriculum, for regular antiracist training and professional development for faculty and staff, and for an expansion of services and resources for students of color. It was a call for institutional and systemic change at St. Mark's from current students at the School, seeking support from fellow St. Markers, parents, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends. St. Mark's has responded to the full petition with its commitment to a series of action steps (see sidebar "Action Steps," on p.17).

THE WORK AHEAD

Shyreeta Peacock '92 speaks of America's schools in terms of mirrors and windows.

"You should have a window into another world and you should also have

a mirror in yourself," she says. "So, there are times with the curriculum at St. Mark's where there are a lot of windows for students of color, but not a lot of mirrors."

Bradley and Peacock are among alumni who are exploring ideas to change that, beginning with creating a database of BIPOC alumni to provide a platform of understanding, accountability, and discussion about systemic issues. They are also eager to see a racial bias reporting system, which the School has committed to.

Bing is working with alumni to determine a way to use @BlackatSM to share positive stories. "We want to show how BIPOC alumni are succeeding and thriving in life after St. Mark's through content like alumni profiles. This will help create a network to connect the St. Mark's community."

The School's plan of action to address systemic racism has just begun. In June, Warren announced the formation of an antiracism task force that will identify action steps for St. Mark's to take both inside and outside the classroom to ensure that St. Mark's is an antiracist school. Initiatives will address curricular needs such as mandatory antiracist curriculum—as well as other areas of the School like the residence halls, athletics, and the arts. John Daves, St. Mark's new director of community and equity, who started on July 1, will head up much of this work in partnership with faculty, administrators, and students.

"There are times with the curriculum where there are a lot of windows for students of color, but not a lot of mirrors."

—SHYREETA PEACOCK '92

"If you're allowing students to freely have those conversations, you're also allowing the administration to help fix it and help work through it."

—TAREN BRADLEY '93



The portraits in this feature were illustrated by Lily Wang Luo '21 as part of a student-led fundraiser to benefit Black Lives Matter.

"I'm excited to help the School community meet everyone where they are in understanding all of our social identities," Daves says. "I'm eager to begin this work with the adults and students in the community to help them understand the windows they can see the world through and to help them hold up a mirror to better understand themselves and to develop the habits of mind to see themselves from different points of view. These are the skills that we need to learn today for tomorrow. If we develop these habits of mind today, all of us in the St. Mark's

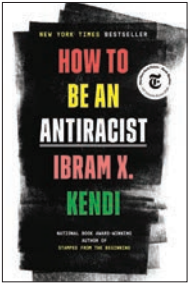
community will be able to illustrate why St. Mark's will continue to be relevant in preparing our students for lives of consequence in the world."

The School will also implement annual mandatory antiracist professional development programming for faculty and staff. In addition, all faculty will be required to attend a regional or national diversity conference at least every three years.

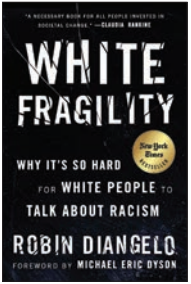
St. Mark's counseling services will expand to include additional resources for students of color, and specifically Black students. Beginning this year, a health professional of color with expertise in supporting students of color will be available on campus. Lauren Martin '85 has been hired for this role and joined St. Mark's in September. In addition, the School will implement a confidential process for reporting on and vigorously addressing incidents of bias that occur on campus.

"We have only scratched the surface," Peacock says. "It's beyond just acknowledgement; we need to see tangible actions and results. And there has to be sustainability. It can't be something that doesn't exist in 2021. It simply cannot."

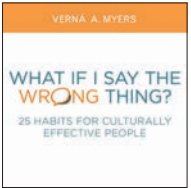
READING LIST



How to Be an Antiracist, by Ibram X. Kendi
Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America—but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other.



White Fragility, by Robin DiAngelo
"White people in North America live in a social environment that protects and insulates them from race-based stress," says DiAngelo. "This book explicates the dynamics of white fragility and how we might build our capacity in the ongoing work toward racial justice."



What If I Say the Wrong Thing?, by Vernā A. Myers
In this book, Myers tackles commonly encountered situations calling for culturally effective habits, including many experienced by the author herself, to help us properly prepare for these issues and situations in our own lives.

Immeasurable Impact

This spring, St. Mark's bid farewell to four retiring faculty and staff members, all of whom served the School for at least 25 years. We offer our thanks and best wishes to Rick and Ginny Umiker, Marion Donovan, and Steve Curtis. Your impact on St. Mark's is both indelible and immeasurable.

BY NICK NOBLE '76
PHOTOGRAPH BY JARED CHARNEY



Rick Umiker arrived at St. Mark's in 1976.

All-Star Team

Rick and Ginny Umiker, senior teacher and senior staffer, respectively, retired in June with more than 80 years at St. Mark's between them.

Rick arrived at St. Mark's in 1976, fresh out of Hobart College. He was hired as an intern in the Math Department and quickly became an integral part of the School community. In his second year in Southborough, he took the reins of the cross-country program in its very first season as a varsity sport. He guided the Lion harriers to a respectable .500 record that fall, and the next year led the varsity team to its first winning campaign. Over 24 seasons, Rick posted a record of 154-96, winning the ISL title in 1985 and New England Championships in 1985 and 1993.

In other athletic endeavors, Rick was introduced to the game of fives, a classic English version of handball. At the time, St. Mark's and Groton had two of the only three fives courts in the United States. Much taken with the sport, Rick joined a group of faculty on a trip to England in 1979, invited by the British Rugby Fives Association to participate in a tour of schools across Southern England, competing in games at each stop. Upon returning home, the St. Mark's traveling contingent became charter members of the U.S. Rugby Fives Association, based in Southborough.

But Rick is first and foremost an educator—a math teacher of extraordinary insight and ability. To him, math is an ideal playground for intellectual exploration and development.

“Rick has taught hundreds of students the importance of lifelong learning, and given countless hours of extra help,” says his longtime faculty colleague, Art Teacher Barb Putnam. “He has a deep interest in

the beauty of mathematics, and he challenges students to develop the capacity for thinking creatively about structure, time, and space, unlocking the matter behind the equations, expressing that beauty and sense of wonder.”

Ginny Umiker arrived on campus after she and Rick were married in 1980. She soon became a member of the staff, organizing student activities and special events for the St. Mark's family, even while raising a family of her own.

“Ginny is, in my view, the unsung hero of the Umiker family,” says Roman Sturgis '99. “Being a teacher myself and knowing firsthand what it is like to raise a family on campus, it has become clear that Ginny is the rock upon which the Umikers stand.” All three of the Umiker children went on to attend St. Mark's: Charles graduated in 1999, Ben in 2002, and Julia in 2006.

Over the years, Rick became more deeply involved with St. Mark's future in areas beyond the classroom or athletics. In the late 1980s, he served on the search committee charged with finding a successor to headmaster Mark Barlow. In 1989, he was a faculty representative on the committee that put together a long-range plan for St. Mark's under headmaster Chris Mabley. He also served on the Senior Disciplinary Committee during the early 1990s.

Recognizing Rick's ability to “foster excellence in mathematics,” Heads of School Tony and Elsa Hill named him recipient of the A. Watson Armour III Mathematics Chair. Rick earned his graduate degree in education from Harvard and was appointed by the Hills as assistant head of school and dean of faculty. In those two roles, Rick was instrumental in bringing many skilled educators to St. Mark's. Significantly, he played a key role



Ginny and Rick Umiker (with Bella) retired as St. Mark's senior staffer and senior teacher.

in the creation of the St. Mark's Institute of Mathematics. He supported the St. Mark's goal of fostering both excellence in teaching and diversity among the School's adult population, and he was charged with spearheading the School's developing an effective targeted internship program for teachers of color.

At the turn of the 21st century, Ginny transitioned into the role of bookstore manager. Each year, she was one of the first on campus to get to know the names of 100 or more new students. She was extremely popular with the students, who found the store invariably warm and inviting.

With the retirement of Senior Master Andy Harris in 2015, that distinction fell to Rick Umiker. Approaching the honor thoughtfully, he decided to rename it.

"I see the noun *master* as carrying an undeniable implication of the masculine," he explained. "Beyond that, I feel responsible for explaining a tradition of referring to St. Mark's teachers as 'masters,' despite having never worked at St. Mark's during such a time. I understand and honor the notion of teachers as masters of their

craft, and even appreciate the notion of using master as an adjective, as in 'master teacher.' That is something to which all can aspire. However, we have reached an era, in this century, for which the word 'master,' in reference to our classrooms, too likely connotes leadership that is domineering."

And, as he noted, male-centered. The next most senior faculty after Rick is a woman—Barb Putnam—and the title, he felt, should clearly reflect the potentiality that one day a female faculty member might hold that position. "I also fear," Rick said, "that the word is laden with so many other negative connotations that the work that I have done in making St. Mark's a more gender and racially diverse place is somewhat undermined by my acceptance of such a title. In 2015, our teaching faculty respectfully refer to themselves and our colleagues as 'teachers,' not 'masters.' Therefore, I believe it is time to refer to the most senior member of that group as the Senior Teacher."

As senior teacher, with the advent of the Community and Equity program at the School, Rick continued to advocate for diversity and inclusivity. "My long experience," he wrote, "continues to confirm that we are strongest, as well as reaching for the most beneficial growth, when we embrace diversity and the significant challenge, discomfort, and even conflict that it brings. It is in the richness of the relationships that grow thoroughly and honestly sharing perspectives that we resolve that conflict, grow as a community, and more fully equip ourselves to contribute to the healing of our society beyond St. Mark's."

Within St. Mark's, Ginny has kept the School store vibrant and viable during three different changes of location, all the while maintaining her enthusiastic commitments to organizations outside St. Mark's, like the Southborough Gardeners and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Westborough.

"To know Ginny is to see a person who is exceptionally creative," says Barb, and she recognizes in her longtime friends, neighbors, and colleagues "their gift of welcome."

That gift was made abundantly clear when John and Laura Warren arrived on campus in 2006. Waiting for the Warrens in Choate House was a large gift basket from Mr. and Mrs. Umiker. When the new head of school thanked the veteran math teacher for the kind gesture, Rick simply replied, "This is what we do at St. Mark's."

Once, several years after his graduation, Roman Sturgis '99 asked Rick what drew him to teaching. "He told me," Roman recalls, "that in some ways, we do this so that we can make sense of our own high school experience."

And for more than four decades, under seven different heads of school, Rick has been helping young women and men make sense of their experiences as they reach toward direction in life. "They modeled the growth mindset before it was a buzzword," declares Roman, "and all the while, remained so *nice* about it. On behalf of alumni everywhere, thank you Ginny and thank you Rick, for all you have done to improve our lives."

"Rick and Ginny," says Barb, "often wordlessly, remind community members of all ages the importance of working toward goals but not at the expense of character."

Yes, the Umikers will be retiring to New Hampshire (and Rick still longs for fives), but Barb, who will be inheriting the mantle of senior teacher at Rick's retirement, knows that they will not be forgotten.

"Rick and Ginny will be remembered fondly for their accessibility, generosity, and their dedication to the School and its values," she says. "Such is the legacy of this family whose kindness and charity have touched so many of us."



Marion worked with student groups as varied as the Young Republicans and the Buffy the Vampire Slayer Club.

Storied Career

Marion Donovan came to Southborough in 1995 as an assistant librarian, after a 20-year career as a high school history teacher. Always a lover of history (it was also her major as an undergraduate at Smith College), she has occasionally been called upon to leave the library and teach that subject to St. Markers, most notably when veteran teacher David Lyons was on sabbatical. So at St. Mark's, Marion has worn many hats—including librarian, teacher, and advisor—and in all those roles she had a tremendous impact on students at the School.

Her greatest impact, of course, has been in the library, where she was a constant presence over the past quarter century. For many years she worked closely with evening study prefects in the library. Working under four different head librarians, she introduced hundreds of St. Markers to valuable resources, supporting their academic and leisure pursuits with equanimity and insight.

"Some of my closest ties over the years," Marion says, "have been with young readers and writers who established themselves as true denizens of the library."

Her love of books extended to students' non-academic pursuits.

"In my III Form year," writes Brent Borodic '02, "I was spending a few free periods each week helping with book restoration under Marion's guidance. Although my foray into the craft of book restoration was brief, Marion quickly became one of my biggest advocates during my successful—and sometimes less than successful—exploits while there."

Outside the library, Marion worked with the International Club, the GSA, the Young Republicans, and the



Serving as an advisor was a “great joy” for Marion Donovan.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer Club, to name but a few. With her graduate degree in Asian Studies from Yale (she spent a year as a Mombusho Fellow at Tokyo’s Waseda University), she hosted three years of Kyoto exchange students at St. Mark’s and co-chaperoned 10 St. Markers on the final three-week Kyoto summer exchange trip to Japan in 2002.

Desmond Kidney ’02 remembers that trip and Marion.

“That Japan trip started nearly 20 years of digital correspondence that continued through college and law school, and across several different email handles,” Desmond says. “Marion writes without prompting and sends excellent care packages full of news about St. Mark’s—and, faithfully, every copy of the *Vindex*. She is always interested to hear about my writing, my life in the law, any singing I might be up to, and whether there is a new beau in my life. She has become one of my closest friends-at-a-distance (how appropriate, given everyone’s new quarantined social life), and one of the people who has known me the best for the longest.”

Marion was recruited to teach III Form Study Skills before St. Mark’s had an official program (currently the III Form Global Seminar). She also taught a year of English as a Second Language and has often tutored students one-on-one.

“Most exciting for me,” Marion says, “was teaching AP European History for Mr. Lyons.” She also kept up with the field of history by teaching Japanese history at Lasell College (now Lasell University) for three years. Most recently, she notes, students enrolled in the new St. Mark’s History Fellowship program “have provided an additional use for my personal history library as well as my feedback on their research and assignments.”

For Marion, advising has been her “great joy.” As she speaks Japanese, her first advisees were the Kyoto exchange students, but there have been many others since.

“I am extremely grateful to have had Mrs. Donovan as my advisor during my four years at St. Mark’s,” writes Angela Koh ’13. “Advising period was often the highlight of my day. Every week, our advising group sat around the round table with a warm cup of black tea in our hands, reflecting on our week and checking on each other. Our advising group became close friends, and Ms. Donovan soon became a maternal figure to me on campus. She was the best listener, always gave the best advice, and most importantly, made me feel at home.”

Sera Park ’13 agrees. “Marion’s gift to the three of us in her advisory group encapsulates her care and thoughtfulness. She had handcrafted miniature models of our desks, featuring all the items that symbolized each of our passions and aspirations. Mine featured, among many others, a guitar, a soccer ball, and even a minuscule *Vindex* magazine, opened to the page of the poem that I had written! I remember receiving this exceptionally special gift just days before Prize Day, immensely moved by the time and care that she put into it, and thinking about how fortunate I had been to have an advisor who made St. Mark’s feel a little more like home to me.”

“There were lots of smaller moments in life that made me truly appreciate having Ms. Donovan in my life,” writes Gillian Yue ’18, another advisee. “Throughout my St. Mark’s career, she had been a consistently warm presence that I knew would always be there for mental support. From our Donovan-styled (i.e. having thoughtful chats with tea and cookies) weekly advisory meetings to all kinds of candies and cards I receive during various holidays, I felt great amounts of warmth and sense of belonging in my four years away from my home country. Plus, Ms. Donovan truly cared for me and my growth as an individual. Being a more independently minded person, I really appreciated how she would listen and trust in my decision-making processes, allowing me room to act, reflect, and learn on my own.”

Marion is also constantly supportive of her colleagues. Current Library Director Jonathan Golden recalls the very first thing she said to him.

“‘Do you like blueberries?’ she asked, and I said ‘Yes.’ She then gave me a plate of blueberry muffins she had baked.” Later, when Jonathan invited Marion to his wife’s baby shower, “I told her she didn’t have to worry about getting a gift. She looked me in the eye and said, very seriously, ‘I’m sorry, gifts are non-negotiable.’”

Retirement should give Marion more time for her hobbies: creating scale miniatures and reading—historical mysteries, science fiction, and fantasy. Residents of Northborough, she and her husband, Brendan, will also be able to spend more time in Maine. But she is the second longest-serving librarian in St. Mark’s history, and as such she leaves a significant legacy.

“Somehow the library and the St. Mark’s community claimed me and made me their own over the years,” she says. “It has been my privilege to find a career home here at St. Mark’s.”

PHOTOGRAPH BY BETH MICKALONIS

A Power of Good

St. Mark’s first hired a full-time electrician on its staff in 1947. Sixty of the ensuing 73 years saw just two people in that position. The most recent, Steve Curtis, retired this year after 29 years of service to the School.

Originally from Ashland, Mass., Steve graduated from Ashland High in 1971 and from Boston’s Coyne Electrical & Technical College in 1973. He came to St. Mark’s in 1991 and worked under three facilities directors during his time at St. Mark’s.

As an electrician, Steve was kept busy, both dealing with the vagaries of the Main Building—already a century old when he arrived on campus—and the needs of the growing number of new facilities: the Putnam Family Arts Center, Thieriot House, and the STEM Center were added during his time at St. Mark’s, while the entire core of the main building was renovated into the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning. He also played a key role in the complete refitting of Choate House.

But Steve’s contributions to the St. Mark’s community went beyond electrical work. “Steve is a behind-the-scenes kind of guy,” says Jack Cullina, facilities manager at St. Mark’s from 1996 to 2018. “You name it—whatever you needed him to do, he did. He knows how to do a lot of things, not just electrical. If there was an after-hours heating or plumbing problem, or an emergency with the boiler, you could call Steve, and he’d be there as well.”

For 29 years, Steve worked diligently behind the scenes to help keep the St. Mark’s campus, and thus all the School’s programs, going strong.

“I would bet,” Jack declares, “that rarely has there been a member of the St. Mark’s facilities crew who has known the School’s

PHOTOGRAPH BY ADAM RICHINS



physical plant, inside and out, better than Steve Curtis.”

Steve will enjoy his much-deserved retirement. A member (and past president) of the Ashland Fish & Game Club, he should have more time to pursue his hobbies as well as spend time with family. A grateful St. Mark’s community wishes him the best.

Steve Curtis worked behind the scenes at St. Mark’s for 29 years.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AL WILLIAMS

FROM ST. MARK'S

NICHOLAS BRAUN '06 TAKES A BREAK FROM HIS HIT HBO SERIES
TO CHAT WITH ILLIA REBECHAR '20 AND SYDNI WILLIAMS '22.

TO *SUCCESSION*

By the time Nicholas Braun '06 arrived at St. Mark's, he had already been acting for nearly a decade. In 2001 he made his television debut in the made-for-TV movie *Walter and Henry*, and in 2005 he reached wider audiences in the Walt Disney Pictures feature *Sky High*. Now in his third season playing Greg in the HBO series *Succession*—winner of the 2020 Golden Globe for Drama TV Series—Braun returned to St. Mark's in February to work with students in filmmaking and theater classes and rehearsals for the winter play.



How has your life changed since *Succession*?

My whole career changed. It's the biggest thing that I've ever been in, in that so many people around the world have watched it and we won a Golden Globe award. It's something I've never experienced.

Did you think it was going to become as big as it did?

Definitely not. I've done so many things that I thought were going to be successful, and then things turn out badly or people don't care about the project.

What prompted you to attend St. Mark's when you had the option of theater schools?

I did a movie when I was 11 and the director gave me advice not to make my whole life about acting—to go live my life so that I could bring that full life to my characters and to my work. Coming to St. Mark's, I felt like I could study anything. I did a few plays [*Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Our Town*], but I didn't take every drama class or do every play. I played sports, I got to do other things. So it felt that time where I could spread out myself a bit and see if I liked anything else.

Do you think there's a major difference between film and television and on onstage acting?

I do. It's a skill to learn how to be aware of a camera and how big your frame is, because if you're moving a lot in a closeup, that's not going to look very good. It's better to show the emotion in your face and eyes. But if you're on stage, you can't be that minimalist. You have to do things in your body that show what's going on inside of you.

What were your takeaways at St. Mark's?

I learned how to write a good paper and short stories in class with Ms. [Sarah]

McCann. I think that helped me understand the structure of a story.

What was your education post-St. Mark's?

I went to Occidental College in L.A., which is a small liberal arts school. I really just wanted to start working as an actor once I left St. Mark's; the only schools I applied to were in New York and L.A.

When did you start auditioning?

What was the process of breaking into the business?

During college I would go to an audition and go back to class, then go back and go to another audition. I already knew that acting is the thing that makes me the most happy. My parents asked me to complete two years of college then decide if I wanted an acting career. I was set on proving myself; I had an agent and a manager, and I got this movie *Minutemen*, which was a Disney Channel movie, followed by *Princess Protection Program*. I knew I would do OK and my parents understood. After that I was a series regular on a TV show called *10 Things I Hate About You* for ABC Family. I got a pretty good paycheck and decided to take the risk. It's a crazy career, and a weird one. You're putting a lot on the line; you do a job that seems like the biggest job of your life and then it's over in four months and you have to go get another one.

Do you like that short-term enjoyment in the moment, and then it ends?

I do. I like the temporary feeling of knowing that I'm going to be with a group of people for two months or six months, so I have to make the most of it. Then it's going to be back to the grind and trying to find something else that is meaningful and a good job. You also have no control over how it turns out; you can get cut out of a movie. There are so many

"I focus on getting a sense of why a writer wrote something," Braun says of his preparation process.



traps in this career where things can go differently than you expected. But I like the risk of it all.

What advice do you have for young actors or just anyone looking to break into show business?

Make sure your life has plenty of passions in addition to acting. The more different types of people you meet and understand, the better you can inhabit those types of people as an actor. Also, work hard at your craft and work hard to figure out how and why you are going to pursue acting, because it's an art where you're being a human. Figuring out your style isn't something you just come up with; you have to just do it a lot and eventually it feels good and right. And that's different for everybody. I learned from a bunch of different people at different acting schools and pulled what worked for me. If it doesn't inspire you or it doesn't make you feel more attuned in your instrument, then get rid of it. Act the way that makes you feel most connected to a part.

When you were not filming or not on stage, did you cater to that personal growth aspect of that career?

I did. When I was at St. Mark's and working on *Sky High*, I was taking acting classes on my days off. During college I would take an acting class every Saturday morning. It's good to have a safe place to make mistakes as an actor, because otherwise you're restrained and you're watching yourself and you're protecting yourself. And that's not a good thing as an actor.

How do you prepare for a character?

I focus on getting a sense of why a writer wrote something—why a character talks a certain way, what's the rhythm of the way that they speak or respond, why are they doing certain behaviors. And I try to understand how they fit into the movie or TV show.

It goes back to that notion of "What do I have to bring on stage?"

Yes. With *Succession*, my character Greg starts in such a low place, with no position



Clockwise from top right: Braun with Joe Felix '20, with the interviewers, with Jeremy Strong in *Succession*.

in the family. But in the script, most of the scenes were really serious, but Greg's scenes are kind of funny. Everybody talks with a real slick, confident nature in the rest of it and Greg doesn't. He's kind of not sure how to talk to people. So I asked myself, "When do I feel like that and how can I put my own nervousness, or my own nervousness matched with ambition, into this? What part of me is like this guy?" Because lots of different parts of us are different personalities every day.

Did you have a "fan" moment while attending the Golden Globe awards?

Meeting Bong Joon Ho, who directed *Parasite*. Meeting him was a starstruck moment because that movie is so great. And Meryl Streep. When I saw her I knew I only had one chance, so I went up and tapped her on the shoulder and said,

"Meryl?" and she turns around and says, "Oh my God, it's you. I love your show. I think you're great on your show and I think you guys are going to win tonight." She whispered it. Because we were up against her show *Big Little Lies*.

You did win against Meryl Streep.

How did that feel?

It was surreal. To win at an awards show, where you're up against people like that and you're in a room full of people that you just totally revere. It feels impossible that you're going to go up on stage and your show, that you guys make in your little compartment, is going to win. Or that Meryl Streep has spent time watching this thing that we make. It continues to be very surprising.

This interview has been edited and condensed.

ST. MARKERS

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THIS IS US

Lives of Consequence

Four St. Markers share their COVID-19 stories

“St. Mark’s School educates young people for lives of leadership and service,” declares the familiar St. Mark’s mission statement. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we reached out to alumni to ask how they are leading lives of leadership and service during this unprecedented time.

ACCORDING TO DOMESTIC hunger-relief organization Feeding America, 98 percent of food banks reported an increase in demand for food assistance compared to this time last year. The Brookings Institution reports that “since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, food insecurity has increased in the United States.” It’s particularly true in households with young children. But **Jewel Greenberg ’98** is working to create change.

“I’ve joined the team of Crop Swap LA, recently featured in *Time* magazine, to coordinate their volunteer fruit and food-picking efforts,” she says. “We source local backyard fruit trees, organize volunteers to pick the extra fruit, and distribute the produce to local organizations feeding the homeless and supporting others who have food access problems. In this time of COVID-19, all volunteers wear masks and

gloves, and work with social distancing guidelines. Our work has been deemed essential as we’re providing access to fresh food to communities that may otherwise go without. I’ve also started a Facebook group for gardeners in my neighborhood where we’re sharing seeds, advice, successes, failures and, eventually, food, once things get growing. In a time when many seed suppliers are sold out for the season, I’ve been able to pull my neighborhood together to share what we have and support our hyper-local food supply.”

Carrie Hill ’98 is busy sewing masks—for frontline workers and anyone else in need—to help stop the spread of COVID-19. “I am a member of a collective of artists and craftsmen who work in the art department on films, commercials, and photography productions in New York City called Artcube,” she says. With the advent of COVID-19, “we began making face shields by hand for frontline workers March 21 and over the next month delivered 2,500 to NYC hospitals and other frontline workers. Now a network of production shops, including the one that produces sets for *SNL*, are cranking them out by the thousands using CNC

routers and 3D printers. We have raised over \$15,000, and I was humbled by the number of my St. Mark’s classmates who donated. If you would like to donate, please go to www.artcubearmy.com, or on Instagram you can follow @artcubearmy to see to our continued work to support frontline workers battling this virus. I also put together a collective of local sewers in my neighborhood to make the cloth masks, which we distribute to the hospitals and anyone in need of a mask, such as the elderly and local grocery store workers.”

Andrew Kim ’07 of Plover, Inc. says, “On March 18, our team decided to suspend normal operations and dedicate all engineering resources to designing, prototyping, and delivering mass casualty ventilators to support our healthcare providers. After exactly one month, our team completed the design and construction of fully functioning ventilators with the involvement of over 10 critical care specialists, pulmonologists, and respiratory therapists. One unit, along with our documented work, is going to Professor Lonny Ashworth, director of respiratory care at Boise State University and a leading expert in ventilators, who will continue

(CONTINUED...)

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further academic work with his graduate students. We also provided one unit to a medical device manufacturer who we are in the process of closing a licensing deal with. They will handle the production and distribution of these mass casualty ventilators.”

For some St. Markers, fighting COVID-19 is simply part of the job. “To tell the truth,” says **Robert Storck ’08**, “my wife and I have not been *volunteering* during the current COVID-19 pandemic as we both *work* in healthcare. I am a paramedic and my wife is a former ER nurse turned ICU nurse. We both work at a mid-size community hospital in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Our hospital and county is one of the hardest hit areas outside of New York City. Our hospital has around 200 inpatient beds with a 20-bed ICU and a 40-bed emergency room. The hospital-based EMS service runs approximately 12,000 calls a year with three ambulances. Since March the EMS service has added a fourth ambulance to its daily rotation and a paramedic fly car to keep up with call volume. The hospital in turn has expanded the 20-bed ICU, by closing to all elective surgeries and procedures, into a 150-bed ICU for COVID-19 patients. As such, our workload has increased exponentially with both of us working around 70-hour work weeks. While there have been some challenges to overcome our jobs essentially have remained the same, caring for the sickest of patients. We are extremely grateful to our local community who have been supporting us through parades, food, and cards with well wishes.”



Carrie Hill '98

CLASS NOTES

1951

“Life goes on,” says **Robert Leeson**. “We think we are healthy, and our offspring also (three SM grads) seem to be well, as well. Our fourth (who lives in Taos, New Mexico) just broke his leg skiing...but he will survive and his family is busy, but well. Peggy and I live in Wakefield, Rhode Island... and we would enjoy meeting up with any SM alum traveling in this area. I have also concentrated my spare time to donate much of my time on boards and committees of not-for-profit organizations, which have as their goals the improvement and/or protection of various aspects of our environment such as wild birds and animals, the land they inhabit, salt and freshwater and the marshes that surround/protect them, natural forest areas and their wild inhabitants, the environment in general, and the elimination of those activities which are polluting it.”

“I have written a piano sonata that has been performed by the concert pianist Jenny Lin and published by Supertrain records,” writes **Henry**

Ziegler. “You can access it by logging into Supertrain Records and going to ‘releases.’”

1954

Sheldon Clark remembers that “I flunked Latin” and asks that the School “please change my grade from an F to a D- thank you! But I could pass that football for Benny (Howarth)!”

John Curtis shared that “as a teacher/school director for virtually all of my life, most of my work and volunteerism has been in connection with young people. Probably the most rewarding “volunteering” has come from an activity my wife Alison (my VI Form Dance date!) and I have been involved with for the past 21 years: introducing Africa to groups of a dozen or so 15-year-olds.

“It is not just the successful execution of the activities themselves that produce the payback for us or for our students. These involve working with Zambian elementary school children at an “inner-city” charity-sponsored school in Livingstone, leading sports activities at the Acacia International School there, which we founded in 2006, and constructing a home for AIDS victims in the fishing village of Mwandia. These all tend to reinforce for our participants the adage that ‘it is better to give than to receive.’

“However, the greatest impact from the experience our volunteers have derives from their direct and sustained contact with young people who have none of the contemporary lifestyle accessories upon which our

students themselves are so frantically dependent in their everyday lives. It is the realization that one can survive, indeed thrive, in a community of friendly, engaged, appreciative kids just being kids. It is the recognition, and life lesson, invariably concluded by those teens in our charge that ‘you don’t need a lot of stuff to be happy.’”

1955

Charley Darlington and his wife Janet celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in July. They have four children and 10 grandchildren ages 8 to 22, five boys and five girls. **Darlington** still works in White Plains, New York, running an appellate service business with his son Matthew.

1956

Davenport B. (Dave) Crocker writes: “I had to sell my boat, having spent 78 years enjoying cruising, racing, and just relaxing on board. As my wife died, I have a very beautiful significant mate, showing me how to survive old age. Hope all my classmates are well, avoiding the virus. Planning to visit St. Mark’s for the reunions.” Crocker remembers fondly former faculty member John Carey, “for his support, long-term communications.”

George Strawbridge—Farmer Strawbridge—a breeder of more than 100 graded/group stakes winners since 1991, was honored in January with the Eclipse Award for Outstanding Breeder by the Thoroughbred Racing Associations of America. A nice piece in Bloodhorse can be found at <https://www.bloodhorse.com/horse-racing/articles/238116/a-breakthrough-eclipse-for-top-breeder-strawbridge>.

1957

Writing about the upcoming Athletic Hall of Fame induction of the undefeated fall 1956 football team, **Charles Daggett Harvey** says that “it will be interesting to see if **Jim Poitras** can still throw a cross-body block or **John Howarth** can run off tackles or to see if **Clark Grew ’58** supports St. Mark’s or Groton, both of which he eventually coached. It will be interesting to see who is still who.”

1958

“At year end 2019 I retired from my first nonprofit board,” says **Henry Babcock**. “We planned to increase travel to visit our three married children and seven grandchildren, scattered among Long Island, New York, Massachusetts, Michigan, and Colorado, and visit several foreign countries on our bucket list. All on hold now due to the pandemic.”

Armando Garcés Eder shares that “we are lockdown in La Riberita, our home in Cali, Colombia. We are next door to my brother **Carlos ’61**. Wanted to know if all our classmates are doing well. If any St. Marker comes to Cali, call and say hello. Here are two of the champion sires of our ranch @garciaabajo, one of the oldest cattle ranches in Colombia. This is a passion I now share with my daughter **María José, SM Class of 2002.**”

“I’m still at the architecture business,” writes **Louis Mackall**. “I’m also putting a lot of time into a startup my partner Ken and I have: *LeetesIslandWoodworks.com*. We’re making furniture now. Literally, I’m as excited now as I was my first year in architecture school, or skating on black ice during Christmas vacation. We started out making sawhorses.



1. Armando Garcés Eder '58 (left) and daughter María José '02
2. David DiCicco '59

3. Louis Mackall '58
4. Gordon Boyd '64
5. Philip Gaffney '61 (right)

Save the Date!

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL REUNION WEEKEND
April 30–May 1, 2021

**ALUMNI IN CLASS YEARS ENDING IN
0, 1, 5, AND 6 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.**

More details coming this fall.

They are a pretty simple thing, but ours are simpler, lighter, and stronger than anything else out there, by far. As an architect, doing furniture is always waiting in the wings. But doing something my 'aesthetic police' approve of is hard, hard. Somehow, between the horses and that little table, we've done it. It makes me very, very happy."

While at home during COVID-19, Mackall notes that "other than a few small donations, etc., I've not done much 'cept design and produce a small round table. It's 29 1/2" diameter. 'Cause it's small, my wife and I can travel while at home. One night: dinner on the porch. Another, dinner in front of the fireplace. Then, there's the attic, or close up by our front door, or when the weather's better, out in the driveway, or the tool shed.

This morning it was cold and rainy: hence, breakfast by the fireplace. All good. And, that table is the prettiest little table I ever saw. Happy to do shameless promotion for St. Mark's: will sell tables for \$135 with \$20 from each sale going to St. Mark's so others can travel while staying home. Cheers from Guilford."

1959

"Though at this time we are quarantined like everyone else in California," writes **David DiCicco**, "we typically have had an active retirement. This winter we skied for five weeks in Snowmass, Colorado. Future travel has been put on hold for now. I play golf most days when the courses are open. With ongoing instruction and practice, I have been able to improve a lot. My wife Vicki and I enjoy

spending time with our friends in San Diego and frequent local restaurants in the Del Mar area several nights a week."

Geoffrey Platt Jr. reports:

"Writing this in week four of coronavirus shelter-in-place, which Hope and I are honoring in our house in Bethesda, Maryland, where we moved back to in 2017 after 20 years of renting it out. Closer now to son and family (17-month-old grandson and a granddaughter expected in June) in Baltimore. From our bunker, I cannot do what I love especially, singing in an excellent church choir. Retired, but I am a blogger on nonprofit issues. See www.geoffreyplattconsulting.com for the 80 of them I've written over the past nine years, and which I hope to continue doing, despite the changing world. Away virus!"

1961

Philip Gaffney sent us a photo "of a bronze statue of Washington, Lafayette, and Hamilton prominently positioned at the center of the Morristown Green across from the same site where these three giants of the Revolution met in 1777 at the Jacob Arnold Tavern immediately following the Battle of Princeton. What a coincidence that we are where we are today in historic Morristown." He wrote that "The Washington Association of New Jersey presented to the Morristown Medical Center a check to benefit the well-being and recognition of their first responders. It is altogether fitting that one of George Washington's highest priorities was the welfare of his soldiers by inoculating them during the smallpox epidemic during 1775, and almost 250 years

later, the Washington Association of New Jersey is supporting the urgent needs of our community during the COVID-19 pandemic."

Joe Sheppard is the author of *Shep's Places*, a compilation, published on Amazon, of more than 40 "Shep's Place" columns written for the Lawrence Academy website between 2011 and 2018. They include profiles of people, stories of school and family life, anecdotes both humorous and touching, and more, all gleaned from Sheppard's memories of a 48-year career at the school.

1963

Roger Nott shares "I just returned from a week's canoeing trip in the Everglades, where I surprised a panther along the Faka Union River."

1964

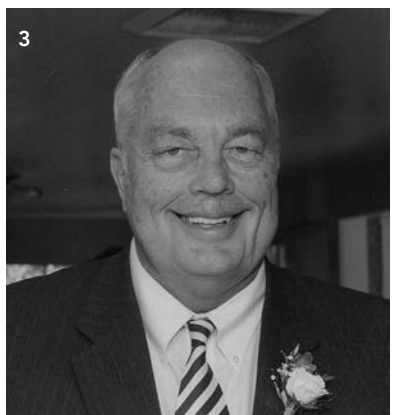
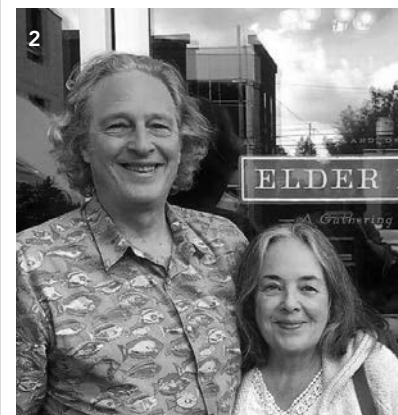
"I merged out of my energy consulting business in 2015, very happily," says **Gordon Boyd**. "Volunteer work has more than replaced the business." Since 2012, before the pandemic, he has helped lead Bethesda Episcopal Church in Saratoga Springs, New York, in a transformational restructuring of its property assets and adopting a renewed mission of service in its community, starting with the sale of an old rectory, an older parish house and other land. As president of Mercy House of Saratoga, Inc., <https://mercyhouse-saratoga.org>, Boyd has coordinated the development of a \$11.5 million addition to the church that will contain apartments for up to 40 people with disabilities who might otherwise be homeless. Construction starts this spring. People with drug or alcohol disabilities, mental illness,

injured workers from the stables at the racetrack will be accommodated in the midst of the city's historic but highly gentrified downtown district. This mission has taken on significantly more importance during the pandemic. People in substance recovery or who are homeless require accommodations, have health conditions that demand care. Partnerships with local nonprofits will make the operation economically sustainable. Legal/zoning issues were resolved based on the First Amendment of the Constitution and the Gospel of St. Matthew 25: 34-45. Bethesda's case is inspiring other churches in the community and beyond to look at their legacy property in light of long-term housing needs of people as we emerge from COVID-19.

Austen T. Gray Jr. writes that "I finally retired and closed up shop at A.T. Gray Architect, P.C. after 40 years. I spent this last winter skiing 55 days in Sun Valley until the mountains were closed down March 15. Living mostly in Idaho with two new knees now. I am able to hike and bike, concentrating on getting into shape for my 'golden years!'"

1967

Terry Collier writes that "Maria and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary this year. Fortuitously, we sold our food service distribution businesses in the leeward islands of the Caribbean, just before the hurricanes and pandemic hit. So we are comfortably retired in Palm Beach, where I kitesurf and paddle surf. Harkening back to my days of the rock chapel service, I've built a home studio now that there is time for creating music again. With two daughters and two



1. Terry Collier '67 (left) with brothers Richard '57 and Thomas Carhart '70
2. Terry Collier '67 with his wife Maria
3. Leif Rosenberger '68

4. Ed Taft '69 (left) with his wife Pamela
5. Cooper, dog of Crosby 'JC' Brown '75

Congratulations Athletic Hall of Fame 2020 Inductees



1956 Varsity Football



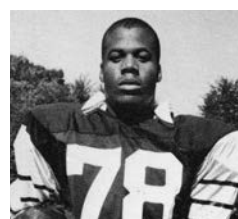
Sandra R. Grosvenor, SS '75



Frederick M. Burr
Faculty, Coach
1956-1963; 1967-1971



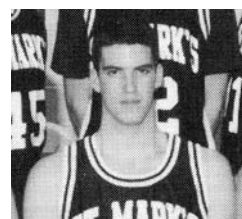
David R. Stack '75



Alfred E. Badger II '84



Joshua F. Bradstreet '95



Brendan I. Herbert '00



2000 Girls' Varsity Lacrosse



Danielle Furlong Rylan '05



Rachael I. Ogundiran '07

Induction Ceremony: Saturday, May 1, 2021 (Reunion Weekend)

Please visit www.stmarksschool.org/AHOF to learn more about achievements of these remarkable inductees.

grandchildren, we are truly blessed. Here are two photos: one of my wife and I in our retirement and one of my brothers, all of whom are SM graduates.” While at St. Mark’s, his favorite class was Theatre of Absurd with Mr. Wiseman, and his favorite faculty member was Fritz Wiedergott, “who taught me that I could push myself beyond my limits.”

1968

Reeve Fritchman declares: “Tom Brady, you’re no David Sawyer!” And thus he began a tribute to his late classmate.

“David Sawyer is the G.O.A.T.,” writes Fritchman. “He deserves this sobriquet, one more addition to a hard-to-believe collection of awards, distinctions, and championships. In a class full of high achievers in the classroom and on the athletic fields—many of whom would have been shoo-ins for recognition as top performers in any other year—he was his own category and swept the competition. Tom Brady, find another tag!

“I admired David for his competitive spirit, leadership, and humor. Many high achievers have attitudes ranging from smug and obnoxious to insufferable and unbearable; I never knew him to compare his talents to those of others. His goal, always, was to focus on, and conquer, the next level. He was his own toughest competitor.

“It is not hyperbole to say we’ll never come across somebody like him again; it is an understatement. I am privileged to have known him, even for just four years, and I regret we never connected as adults (it is my loss that I’ve practiced social distancing since the 60s).

“My deepest sympathies go out to

his wife, children, siblings, extended family, teammates, friends, and the St. Mark’s community. He is gone too early but the examples he set will be remembered long after the Class of 1968’s 100th anniversary is a footnote.”

Leif Rosenberger shared some news about his more recent activities. “I started to work online for Jim Cramer’s Wall Street online publication *The Street*,” he says. “I had twin articles for *The Street* on April 14: “How China is Winning Economics of Sino-U.S. Great Power Competition” and “How Russia is Winning Economics of U.S.-Russian Great Power Competition.” Turning from Wall Street to Africa, I was recently chosen to be director of global economics at a new think tank, Economic Innovation Institute for Africa, co-located in NYC and Ottawa. And in my role as chief economist at ACERTAS, I will be starting to work in May with the African Union and the U.S. State Department on leading a multinational and multi-agency report on the impact of COVID-19 on peace, economics, and security in Africa. I will keep the folks at St. Mark’s Global Citizenship Institute in the loop.”

1969

Ed Taft reported that “Pamela and I were honored to be named ‘Los Altans of the Year’ by our hometown newspaper, the *Los Altos Town Crier*. This was in recognition of our philanthropy and involvement with a variety of endeavors, including the St. Mark’s STEM program.

“We’ve been on some interesting travels, including an amazing cruise in Patagonia aboard the National Geographic Explorer. The attached photo was taken at a glacial fjord on the coast of Chile.”

1972

Stuart Barlow writes that “**John Warren ’74** visited Palm Beach last week to drum up interest in funding St. Mark’s new dorm. Enjoyed meeting some of the other locals down here.

Bill Floyd-Jones and Meg just spent an extra-long weekend with us, and we enjoyed being at the beach all day this past Tuesday. They arrived as white as ghosts and returned to NY with some color! **Chip Williams, Van Spaulding,** and I are planning a hike in Oregon this summer and staying at the ‘Overlook Hotel’ from *The Shining*, which is actually south of Portland, in the mountains. Should be fun.”

1974

“Grateful SM memories always run strong,” writes **David Gibson**, “especially in this viral pandemic: Lee Gaillard, for giving everyone in his English lit classes the confidence that they too can appreciate Faulkner, and for my reunion with him in the Adirondacks. To Bob Colgate, for his daily guidance and amazing friendship on and off campus. To Hank Large, for being the fine man that he is, on and off the field. To coach Porky Clark for reminding us that if you don’t practice the little things on the field, in the classroom, and in life, the big things will get away from you. And to Anna Pliszcz for setting such a high standard for research and learning in her biology lab. And to my friend and classmate, **John C. Warren**, head of school, and to so many in my class, I miss you all and thank you.”

“Sisters in the Sun!” Three from Southborough School—**Wendy Verrill Weimann, Lisa Bowring, and Trina Morris**—met up in Hawaii this past February.

1975

“Pippa the Vicah and I are in lockdown here in London,” shares **Crosby ‘JC’ Brown**, “where we are only allowed out to walk the dog. Luckily we have a German Shorthaired Pointer, Cooper, who requires four walks a day and at the time of writing we have had incredibly un-British mild and sunny weather for two weeks running. Since we have had our 45th Reunion postponed, they are planning to have an online reunion and have set up a Facebook page, Canines and their Pets SMS ’75, to see if there are similarities between their animals and themselves.”

“For the past 40 years,” writes Southborough School’s **Mona Fedeli-Stephenson**, “I have been an early childhood educator. My school closed on March 13, leaving the 3-year-old children in my classroom without their friends and their teachers. To create a sense of community, I started doing videos with the help of my husband Roger. Every couple of days, Rog takes a video of me singing a favorite song, reading a story, or sharing a moment with my preschool friends. Then we send it along to my students and their families. This small form of outreach has kept connected during a very distancing time.”

1979

For “Years of Distinguished Service to Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri,” **Nathaniel Walsh** was honored by Mental Health America of Eastern Missouri (MHA-EM) with the 2019 Silver Bell Award. Walsh accepted the award on December 6, 2019, at the nonprofit’s annual Snow Ball Gala, held at the Four Seasons St. Louis. The Silver Bell Award is given

annually to recognize individuals or organizations that provide outstanding community service, leadership, vision, and values. “We are delighted to have the opportunity to honor Nat with the Silver Bell Award,” said Suzanne King, president and CEO. “His passion for mental health advocacy and longtime commitment to MHA-EM spans nearly 30 years. During that time, he has been a consistent champion of our programs and the people we serve. Nat’s leadership has served our organization well and has helped shape our mission for continued impact and growth.” Walsh joined the MHA-EM board of directors in 1992, and completed a term as board president in December 2019. He was instrumental in the acquisition of the organization’s current home, the historic Warner Mansion, located on South Grand. He is co-founder of Title Holdings, LLC. He attended Law School at St. Louis University. In 2004, he co-founded McGowan and Walsh, LLC, a historic renovation company focused on contributing to the revitalization of downtown St. Louis and Kansas City. In addition to his significant contributions to MHA-EM, he has served in volunteer leadership roles with Habitat for Humanity, the Missouri Athletic Club, and Rohan Woods School.

1980

Laurence (Larry) Castelli shares that “I recently retired from the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, after 30 years of service. My recovery from a stroke is going well, although it is better addressed on my own time now that I have retired. As I recover, I am hoping to become more active in volunteer and pro



1. Kimball Crossley '81
2. Nathaniel Walsh '79 (left)
3. Meg Landry '87
4. Tony Sammartino '97



5. Wendy Verrill Weimann '74, Lisa Bowring '74, and Trina Morris '74
6. Kara Fuller Cole '88 and Alicia Heyburn '88
7. Christoph Silber-Bonz '87 with his wife Anne-Katrin



bono work. Looking forward to our 'Fall' Reunion."

1981

Kimball Crossley is a professional scout for the San Diego Padres. "This off-season," he writes, "I returned to acting some, and was involved in several short films and independent productions. I have been coaching high school basketball for the last 30 years. I still live in Providence, Rhode Island. My daughters are 11 and 15. I wrote a children's picture book called *When I am with Dad*."

"I have noticed that teaching middle school allows me a quirky glimpse into our society," relates **Suzanne (Hall) King**. And in the COVID-19 era, "the view just got quirkier. I teach 7th- and 8th-grade French and Spanish in a public school in Bend,

Oregon. For the past month my colleagues and I have been witnessing a new layer of inequity in education. At least when school was in session we were able to deliver lessons, materials, support, and food in person. Many of our disadvantaged students actually have some of the best rates of attendance. But now there are a whole slew of new obstacles in the face of distance learning, among them are homelessness, lack of internet access, lack of food, lack of educational support at home, and the need to do house work and perform childcare for younger siblings.

"I wish my story would now segue into the amazing solutions we are providing, when in fact we are just trying to prop up our disadvantaged students. We are providing some internet connections, as well as paper

alternatives to digital material. We are making phone calls to maintain a human connection. We are keeping the free meal service available at a number of locations. We are keeping alive the hope that we can educate our society's disadvantaged."

1987

Meg Landry moved from Hong Kong to Concord, Massachusetts, to be close to family and friends. After a career as a speech-language pathologist, she decided to combine her passion for homes and people by working at Barrett Sotheby's International Realty as a sales associate. Stop by her office in Concord Center to say hello if you are in the area.

After working for different business associations for over 20 years, **Christoph Silber-Bonz** recently decided to change his profession. Together with his wife Anne-Katrin, he now owns and operates two hotels in the Cologne/Bonn area. Right now with COVID-19, times are quite difficult for the hotel business but normally the couple enjoys it tremendously to host their guests from all over the world and to offer them a comfortable and friendly "home away from home" at the Kronprinz Hotel in Troisdorf (near Cologne) and the Hotel Hangelar in Sankt Augustin (near Bonn)."

1988

"I met my '88 classmate **Kara Fuller Cole** for lunch at Bowdoin College before she and her daughters toured the campus," writes **Alicia Heyburn**. "Outside of the admissions building was a man wearing a SM field hockey hat! Forget his name—from New York—he has a junior and

senior daughter attending SM now. One plays field hockey, the other is a rower. We brought them into our photo. So nice to see Lions on the Polar Bears' campus."

1996

"Hello, I'm writing this after our 53rd day of quarantine," shares **Julie Merritt**, "and for a change of scenery my wife and I are packing up our two pups to head to our place in Ptown for a week! We've been lucky during this time as we live on Concord Academy's campus—my wife is the Science Department head there—so we have still had space to roam around and see other faculty in a socially distancing way. Work-wise I sell into hospitals, so during this during this I've been working on various changes for remote patient monitoring and trying to understand how things will evolve for the future." Merritt also serves on the Brantwood Camp board of trustees.

1997

Alexandra Doan Drucker writes, "I live in NYC with my husband David and two children: Teddy (6—The Buckley School) and Georgina (4), who is in nursery school. Due to the virus we have temporarily relocated to our home in Bedford, N.Y. This year I joined the Herbert H. And Grace A. Dow Foundation as an associate trustee. We support the city of Midland, Michigan, and the people of the state of Michigan through a wide variety of charitable, scientific, literally, educational, and religious causes. Through the COVID crisis we have used our resources to help the mid-Michigan region and continue to work closely with the community for aid and support."

"Hello everyone," greets **Tony Sammartino**. "I hope all are doing well! Happy to announce I've been appointed the Northeast regional sales manager for Skytech, Inc., responsible for all new Piper Aircraft sales from Maryland up through Maine. We were awarded the new territory by Piper in January, and are leading the charge with the first General Aviation aircraft in the world that can land itself in an emergency, with the push of a button! I'm excited for the opportunity and look forward to getting back into New England. Stephanie and I are hoping to relocate later this year or early next to Rhode Island. Stay safe, and Tailwinds!"

1998

Brian Blake reports that, "as of March, after leaving the community reinvestment team at Morgan Stanley, I have returned to my community finance roots as director of public policy for the Community Development Bankers Association. CDBA is the national trade group for small banks that primarily serve low- and moderate-income communities. We will miss our home in NYC, but look forward to forging new friendships in Washington, D.C."

2002

Michael Greenberg wrote: "I am excited to share that Nolan and I got engaged in Miami this weekend on our one-year anniversary! We wanted to share this special news with you. We look forward to seeing you soon to celebrate so let us know when your travels take you to NYC."

2003

"Greetings from Southborough,"

writes **Andrew Pfaff**. "My wife Annie and I moved back here to my hometown and recently finished a full restoration of our 1850s farmhouse and barn. I was recently appointed to the Town of Southborough's Advisory Committee and Capital Projects Committee, and I serve on the board of managers of the Fairview Lake YMCA Camps in Stillwater, New Jersey. I have been working at Santander Bank for over a decade now, currently as the executive director of transformation in the Corporate & Investment Banking Division. I split my time between the bank's Boston and NYC offices. I see **Adam Becker** a couple of times a year in New York, and would enjoy getting together with other St. Markers too."

2004

Carrie Bryant recently graduated from Dartmouth Medical School and is excited about continuing her training in pediatrics at Brown/Hasbro Children's Hospital.

Faith Davis and Alexander Iselin were married at a beautiful seaside wedding in Watch Hill, Rhode Island, on September 7, 2019, surrounded by family and friends.

Alycia DeAngelis is expecting to welcome a baby boy in late June 2020. Godmothers **Elizabeth Cavanaugh** and **Susanna Dello Russo '03** will be on hand to provide St. Mark's onesies and to help complete an application for early admissions: Baby DeAngelis Class of 2038!

Roger Hunt III reports that "after three years of testing and testing and testing and testing: in February we closed on six equity positions in startups for our first cohort. Super exciting!"



1. Alexandra Doan Drucker '97 and family
2. Faith Davis '04
3. Roger Hunt III '04
4. Michael Greenwald '02 and Nolan Wein
5. Lillian Katharine Nordstrom, daughter of Kate (Bryant) Nordstrom '04

Call for Nominations!

2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS

The Alumni Executive Committee is now accepting nominations for our **2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards**, which celebrate the achievements and contributions to society that have been made by many of our graduates and serve as an inspiration to current and future St. Markers. Nominees are selected biannually based on the following criteria:

1. OUTSTANDING PERSONAL, BUSINESS, OR PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT, INCLUDING RECOGNITION OF SUCH ACHIEVEMENT BY ONE'S PEERS.
2. SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY OR A NATIONAL, REGIONAL, OR LOCAL COMMUNITY.
3. EXEMPLIFYING *AGE QUOD AGIS*.
4. SUSTAINED INTEREST WITH ST. MARK'S SCHOOL AFTER GRADUATING.

Nomination Deadline: November 15, 2020

Please submit online at stmarksschool.org/distinguishedalumni or contact Advancement at 508.786.6279 or advancement@stmarksschool.org.

Lindy (Lindquist) McDonough and husband **Connor McKean '03** are living near Providence and have taken her luxury goods maker space and his engineering know-how to create masks and face shields for hospitals!

Kate (Bryant) Nordstrom and her husband Barrett welcomed Lillian Katharine Nordstrom on January 14, 2020. Lilly is excited to be a member of the St. Mark's Class of 2038. In the meantime, she looks forward to watching XC races this fall with her parents.

2005

Kevin Nguyen is now a published author. This article and interview with NPR talks about his new book, *New Waves*, which is getting national attention: <https://www.npr.org/2020/03/10/814164937/new-waves-asks-how-can-we-form-true->

friendships-in-an-online-world. The interview also cites his experience losing his best friend, St. Mark's classmate **Andrew Sheridan**, and how that experience affected his writing.

2006

Melissa King writes: "I am currently working for the Museum Conservation Institute at the Smithsonian as part of my final year of graduate school. I will be graduating with an MS in art conservation from the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation in August 2020. Following graduation, I will be a fellow in preventive conservation in the Department of Scientific Research at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. I am also engaged to my partner of eight years, Samir, and we have plans to marry in early 2021!"

2007

Dr. Colin Smith is deployed to Javits New York Medical Station as a physician with the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps as part of the DoD/HHS response to treat patients with COVID-19 in NYC.

2008

Jiji Ahn reports that she is "serving the medical frontlines for the coronavirus pandemic in Michigan. Hope everyone is doing their part in staying safe and keeping social distance!"

Mike Marinella and Anne Geraghty were engaged on December 12, 2019. They are planning a summer 2021 wedding just outside of Ogunquit, Maine. Marinella also completed his master's degree in sports leadership at Northeastern University that same month. He and Geraghty reside in Charlestown, and he is working in alumni relations at the Fenn School in Concord, Massachusetts.

Robert Storck, who owned a company specializing in flipping homes in Fairfield County, Connecticut, writes: "A few years ago, *St. Mark's Magazine* ran a story in the Class Notes section about my wife and I after a house that we flipped was featured on HGTV's *Beachfront Bargain Hunt* with us as the stars of the show. Since then I dissolved my company after I found my dream house: a 1770 farmhouse in Easton, Connecticut, that was in need of a major renovation. I have always had a soft spot for old homes and this one was no exception. The house was constructed of hand-hewn beams, horse-hair plaster on the walls, and wide plank chestnut floors. However, the sills on the house were rotted and there were holes in the roof and floorboards. For the past year I

have been restoring and renovating the house back to its original luster. It has been a long process with quite a few headaches and maybe a trip to the ER for sutures. In the end it has been immensely rewarding to restore and construct a dream home. My wife and I are hoping that the house will be ready by early to mid-summer.

2009

Nadine Cunningham writes that "this fall, I started a new position as the instrumental music director at Tabor Academy. It's great to be back in the United States and at a school in ISL again. In the winter, I served as an assistant coach for the girls' varsity hockey team and we had an incredible season! As we've transitioned to online teaching, I've found new ways to connect with my students and colleagues while we figure out this new normal for now. My advisor Ms. Bryant continued to be a close mentor for me as I started my career as a teacher in the boarding school world six years ago. I enjoyed getting to see her and catch up when Tabor played at St. Mark's this past winter."

2010

Shaun McGovern relates that "pre-pandemic, I was living in Johannesburg and in a role supporting Ministries of Health across Southern Africa, such as those in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe, to scale access to optimal medicines for HIV treatment. In light of COVID-19, I have since come home to Massachusetts to be closer to my family but am still supporting national HIV programs from afar, in particular helping Ministries

implement interventions to keep people living with HIV safe and healthy during the pandemic and ensure that the provision of critical HIV services continues even in light of national lock-downs. I look forward to the day when the world goes back to normal and I'm able to return to beautiful South Africa!"

2012

Nialah Ferrer was admitted to practice law in New York State in December 2019. She also volunteers at the West Bronx Recreation Center, which is a food distribution site for New York City residents who are impacted by COVID-19 and therefore cannot leave their homes for food.

Megan O'Leary was named to the *Observer's* 15 Rising Stars in PR list (a national ranking of communications professional under 30) for her work in public affairs, specifically in manufacturing and agriculture. The listing reads: "Described internally as 'big guns,' Megan O'Leary has a particular knack for storytelling, as well as predicting and tracking media trends and potential reporter interest. O'Leary started off 2019 strong by securing a major feature on *Forbes.com's* front page, with an estimated advertising value of \$1.15 million for a small manufacturing startup. Other major accomplishments this year included securing features on the front page of *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post's* business sections for a public affairs client impacted by the U.S.-China trade dispute, along with a segment on CNBC's *Nightly Business Report*." O'Leary notes that "my company included that I am a SM grad in my award

nomination but unfortunately it wasn't included—though I'm sure it played a big role in my receiving the award."

2013

Grant Prudhomme continues to serve the city of Syracuse, New York, as a police officer, "while keeping in mind the new way of policing with COVID-19 precautions."

2016

After a stellar four-year field hockey career at Holy Cross, "I had a really cool achievement," writes **Marcia LaPlante**. "I got my first cap with team Canada for indoor field hockey against Ukraine when we went on a tour in Belarus. We will hopefully be competing in the Pan-American cup once everything is settled with this virus. We have to win this tournament to qualify for the 2021 World Cup in Belgium in February."

2017

Liam Busconi had a personal setback this spring when his study abroad experience in Ireland was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic. Undeterred, he arrived home and immediately sought to help the hungry in his central Massachusetts community. He enlisted to deliver meals by vehicle to hungry residents in nearby towns, meeting the hungry where they reside. He plans on continuing this mission indefinitely.

Maeve McCuine works in the maternity unit at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston. "Shoutout to the amazing nurses and staff for all their hard work," she writes. "I'm so lucky to be part of such a great team!"



1. Maeve McCuine '17
2. Grant Prudhomme '15
3. Farmhouse of Robert Storck '08
4. Marcia LaPlante '16

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Visit www.stmarksalumni.com to join
or download the app at:
www.stmarksschool.org/SMLionsConnect.

IN MEMORIAM

1937

William Abbott King died on April 18, 2020, of natural causes. He was 101, and was the School’s oldest living alumnus.

A native of Minneapolis, Bill attended the Blake School in Hopkins, Minnesota, before arriving in Southborough. At St. Mark’s he excelled as an athlete. He played football, ice hockey, baseball, and soccer. Bill went on to Yale before joining the U.S. Navy during World War II and serving as a pilot and navigator. He worked for Northrup, King & Co., the family seed business, in the field and as secretary and then treasurer. He married his wife, Pat, in 1947. Bill retired early to return to his love of geology. He studied at the University of Minnesota and prospected for gold in Idaho and Montana. He reported to St. Mark’s that he was president of the King Mining Company.

Bill also served on the boards of Abbott Northwestern Hospital, MacPhail Center for Music, Washburn Center for Children, and Lakewood Cemetery. He was a dedicated Class Agent who served his fellow 1937 alumni since 1995. He also volunteered to host regional St. Mark’s alumni gatherings in Minnesota and was a loyal donor to the School for many decades.

Bill was predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Patricia O’Donnell King. He is survived by his children, Janet King; Martha King; Will King (Lisa); and John King; and grandchildren Benjamin Faltesek; Elizabeth King; Alexandra King-Dale (Matthew Dale); Natalie King (Max Hohlen); Nora King; and Elmo King, and great granddaughter Annette Hohlen.

1940

Harry G. “Hal” Haskell Jr. died on January 16, 2020. He was 98.

A native of Wilmington, Delaware, Hal came to St. Mark’s from Wilmington’s Tower Hill School. At St. Mark’s he was the starting end on Head Coach Butch Sawyer’s winning varsity football team in

1939. Hal also was a Prefect, played hockey, rowed crew, was active in both fives and golf, and was among those sailors representing St. Mark’s at the Interscholastic Yachting Regatta. He also served as a VI Form student librarian, sang in the Glee Club and Choir, and volunteered as a counselor at Brantwood Camp.

Hal then matriculated at Princeton University, but he left there in 1942 to enlist in the U.S. Coast Guard. Upon completion of Officer Candidate School in 1943, he earned an Ensign commission and was assigned to the LST829 as a first lieutenant in the Pacific Theater. Honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant (jg), Haskell earned the Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Ribbon with battle star and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. When the war ended, he returned to Princeton and went on to a career in both business and public service.

First, though, Hal married Mimi Foster in May of 1947, a union that resulted in eight children. They were married for 61 years. Hal was personnel manager of Speakman Co. in 1947 and 1948, president of Greenhill Dairies, Inc. from 1948 until 1953, and then owner and operator of Hill Girt Farm in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania. He was secretary of the Departmental Council of the United States Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW) in 1953 and 1954 and he was also consultant to the special assistant to President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1955.

Hal began serving as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1952 and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1956. In Congress, he voted in favor of the Civil Rights Act of 1957. He was specifically involved in Titles II, III, and IV of the National Defense Education Act, providing financial aid to students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels, particularly veterans. Hal left Congress in 1959 but remained active in politics, remaining a delegate to the National Republican Convention through

1984, and as a member of the President’s National Reading Council. In 1969 he was elected mayor of Wilmington serving in that office until 1973.

As mayor, Hal built upon his longstanding commitment to civil rights and increasing opportunities for minorities. He transformed city government, establishing public policy and protocols, many of which remain in practice today. His environmental efforts included decades of skillful, articulate leadership devoted to America’s park and recreation movement. Hal’s vision, advocacy, and dogged determination have helped shape the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) into the 18,000-member organization of today, supporting citizen volunteers, professional park and recreation administrators, and educators across America.

In addition to his political and environmental accomplishments, Hal was a business innovator. He was instrumental in the founding, construction, and U.S. market penetration of Union 76 truck stops—a then-novel concept of clustering fast-food franchises at these facilities. He also served as chairman of the board and CEO of Abercrombie and Fitch. He created nonprofit organizations to implement his social and educational beliefs. In 1969, for example, he founded and chaired Dynamy, a Worcester, Massachusetts-based nonprofit experiential educational organization to challenge, support, and empower young people to discover their life purpose and ambition through Outward Bound and internships. Hal’s other leadership and initiatives included Outward Bound, the Brandywine Land Conservancy, Delaware Futures—the University of Delaware Research Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, the Episcopal Church Foundation, and his beloved St. Mark’s. He was a Trustee of the School from 1968-1974. All these endeavors represent a philanthropic legacy of time, talent, and financial resources. Recognizing his contributions, he received honorary degrees from Fisk University of Tennessee and Hobart College in New York.

Mimi died in 2008. Hal then reconnected with an amazing childhood friend, Ruth du Pont Lord. They were devoted partners until Ruth died in 2014. Hal is survived by his children, 19 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

1941

William Thorndike Hamlen died on October 16, 2020. He was 95.

A Boston native, at St. Mark’s Bill was a monitor and Prefect and served on the Student Council. He sang in the Choir and Glee Club, was sports editor of *In-Between Times*, and was a volunteer counselor at Brantwood Camp. Most significant, though, were his athletic accomplishments.

Bill played soccer, ice hockey (the team’s second leading scorer as a VI Former), and baseball (“most improved” player on the team in 1940). For his athletic accomplishments, along with his outstanding leadership and sportsmanship, he was awarded the Fearing Athletic Prize for 1941.

Bill matriculated at Harvard, but left college to serve in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War. He returned to Harvard after the war and he lettered in both hockey and baseball for the Crimson in 1947. Senior year, he was drafted by the Brooklyn Dodgers to catch for their 1948 Brooklyn Junior Dodgers team playing in Nova Scotia.

Bill later received an MBA from Harvard Business School. He joined IBM where, over his 45-year career, he was manager of the Cambridge sales office and retired as a marketing executive in advanced systems development.

Bill met his bride, Lynn, singing Gilbert & Sullivan operettas in New York’s Blue Hill Troupe. They married in 1973. He is survived by his wife, Lynn, and his children William T. Hamlen Jr. and Anna Hamlen Lyttle.

1942

Houston Thomas Davis passed away peacefully on October 25, 2020. He was 96.

At St. Mark’s, Tom was a Prefect and was a member of the football squad his VI Form year. He was also a member of the crew for four years and was part of the successful 3rd boat.

Tom served in the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. After the war, he graduated from Princeton then went to work at Clipper Abrasives. He became president, CEO, and chairman of the board of the Clipper Abrasives Company of Rockland and Marshfield, Massachusetts, and Holly Springs, Mississippi, ultimately retiring in 1985. He was a former director of the Rockland Trust Company, and at the time of his death was the commodore of the La Costa Glen Yacht Club in Carlsbad, California.

Tom was predeceased by his son Jonathan Burr Davis. He is survived by the love of his life, Sigrid Koebel of Carlsbad, California; his three children: Bill Davis of La Conner, Washington; Missy Davis of Piedmont, Oklahoma; and Barns Davis of Duxbury, Massachusetts; five grandchildren: Michael Boss Davis of Duxbury; Allison Moors Cedeno of Houston, Texas; Bradford Anderson Davis of Bothell, Washington; Brighid Mary Davis of Duxbury; and Garrett Thornton Davis of Duxbury; and two great-grandchildren: Ava Boss Davis of Duxbury and Dax Houston Davis of Bothell, Washington.

1944

Columbus O’Donnell died peacefully on March 5, 2020. He was 93.

Throughout his time at St. Mark’s, Columbus sang in the Choir and Glee Club. He also played football and soccer and was active in the Dramatic Club. He left St. Mark’s early, in March 1944, to enlist in the Navy for World War II.

Columbus went on to a varied career in business. For many years he held prominent positions with Resorts International. He served as director of special projects for the casino giant, and in the mid-1980s was executive vice president of Resorts International Airline, a helicopter company. On moving across the pond to Oxton, in Nottinghamshire, he engaged as a consultant for a number of business enterprises.

Columbus and his wife, Andrea, supported organizations such as Massachusetts General Hospital, and Columbus was a regular supporter of St. Mark’s.

He was predeceased by his daughter, Maria. He is survived by his wife, Andrea; his children Betty, Charles, James, Iona, and Alannah; his much-loved father-in-law; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. On a happy note, the latest of these was born just a week after the service: Henry William Columbus O’Donnell came into the world on March 23.

1946

James Leslie Jr. died on May 24, 2017. He was 89.

At St. Mark’s, James was a Prefect, a Scholar, and a member of the Rifle Club (where he dabbled in playing the bugle). He sang in the Choir and was a Prize Declaimer. He was also a member of the special St. Mark’s Boy Scout Troop (Southborough Troop 4). He worked hard to accelerate his graduation from St. Mark’s so he could enlist in the war effort, but the war soon ended.

James attended Yale University, majoring in art and receiving a graduate degree in architecture. He began his architecture career at Collyer and Post in Cold Spring Harbor, New York, and continued a long and successful freelance career in residential architecture.

He was also an accomplished sculptor and painter. As a sculptor, he received numerous awards for his work. Known for his bronze sculpture of exquisite detail including busts and equine themes, James was also a prolific oil painter.

He is survived by his wife Lela and children Linda Leslie, Tucker Mitchell, and Charlotte Pezzo; also grandchildren Hutchinson DuBosque Jr., Travis Mitchell, Sawyer Mitchell, Somerset Mitchell, Maitlyn Pezzo, and James Leslie DuBosque; and his great-grandchild James Leslie DuBosque.

1946

Leighton Mansfield Lobdell died on August 21, 2019. He was 91.

At St. Mark’s, Leighton was a Prefect. He played football (a “golden-toed” placekicker for the Lions), basketball, and baseball. Perhaps his favorite St. Mark’s sport to play, however, was cloisterball.

From 1946 through 1948 he was a member of the U.S. Army, 24th Infantry Division, occupying

Japan. He matriculated at the University of Virginia, graduating in 1952.

On April 5, 1952, he married Phyllis Billings Scott, and they had five children: Shelley Lobdell Crowell (m. Jay Crowell), Lanier Scott Lobdell (m. Juli Harding), Leighton Danforth Lobdell (m. Diane Lally), Kimberly Lobdell (m. Eddie Mickla), and Andrew Adams Lobdell. From 1954 to 1981 Leighton worked at the Continental Corporation, becoming vice president and treasurer. From 1981 until he retired in 1993, he was senior vice president and treasurer of the Brooklyn-based Independence Savings Bank.

Leighton married Marybeth Little Weston on May 25, 1991. His stepchildren are Mark Weston (m. Linda Richichi), Eric Weston (m. Cynthia), and Carol Weston (m. Robert Ackerman). Together they had 19 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Leighton and Marybeth moved to Vicar's Landing in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, in 2000, where he read to second-graders at a nearby school and played piano for church services and social events.

He composed music for which Marybeth wrote the lyrics; their music is magical!

Leighton was a wonderful athlete, musician, executive, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He was predeceased by his older siblings, Francis "Red" Leighton Lobdell (SM Class of 1940) and Brenda Lobdell Taylor Rudner, and by Marybeth in March of 2015. He is survived by his five children, his three stepchildren, and their children and grandchildren.

1948

Gleason B. Greene died on August 13, 2019. He was 89.

At St. Mark's, Gleason played for two years on the football squad, but his greatest interest was in radio. For four years, from 1944 through 1948, he was president of the St. Mark's Radio Club.

After leaving St. Mark's, he spent a year at Avon Old Farms School, and then matriculated at Rollins College in Florida. His college career was interrupted by the Korean War, when he served

in the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Jody, were married in 1952.

Gleason went on to work at IBM. Ten years after his retirement, he founded IT support company Computronix, LLC in Stamford, Connecticut. Gleason loved to garden and he was loved and cherished by many people. He is survived by Jody Greene, his wife of 67 years; his brother Kenneth L. Greene (Carolyn); sister Judith H. Greene; two daughters, Martha Andronaco (David) and Edith Greene; two grandchildren, Helen Bancroft Andronaco and Elizabeth Orban Andronaco; and several nieces and nephews.

1948

John Smith McCoy II passed away on April 6, 2020, after a long battle with cancer. He was 91.

Although only at St. Mark's for two years, John was elected vice president of his class as a III Former and served on the Student Council. He was a strong athlete, playing both varsity football and varsity hockey as a IV Former. John eventually

returned home to Winnetka, Illinois, and graduated from North Shore Country Day School. He enlisted in the United States Army and served as a tank commander in the Korean conflict. Upon his return from Korea, he started his life as a general contractor in the building business, initially with Otis and Associates in Northbrook, Illinois, and later founding his own business, John S. McCoy and Associates in Winnetka.

Second only to his deep and abiding love of his family, he was an avid fly fisherman, possessed an incredible talent as a sketch artist, and was an accomplished water-colorist. Another of his greatest joys in life was listening to jazz and sharing that love with his family.

He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 46 years, Laura Virginia (Gingy) Allen McCoy, in 2001. He is survived by his three children and their spouses: Julia (Allen) McCoy Bertram and Lawrence R. Bertram of Merrimac, Massachusetts; John Smith McCoy III and Anne (Kelly) McCoy of Annapolis, Maryland; and Nina (Alexander) McCoy Royce and Wesley W. Royce of Grafton, New Hampshire; his two beloved granddaughters: Kelly Alexander McCoy and Julia Rose McCoy; his sister, Nancy (McCoy) Hotchkiss of Hinsdale, Illinois; and his stepbrother Mansfield (Duke) Schmidt Templeton of Stuart, Florida. In addition, he is survived by his longtime, much loved companion, Edith Baird Eglin of Palm Beach, Florida.

1948

Lawrence K. Miller died on July 8, 2018. He was 88.

At St. Mark's, Lawrence was a monitor and Prefect, and he served on the Student Council. He sang in the Choir as a II Former and worked on the Brantwood Store Committee. He enjoyed athletics and was a coxswain on the varsity crew during the spring of his II, III, and IV Form years. In the winter of 1947, he played on the hockey squad, but the following year he changed over to wrestling.

He returned to the varsity crew as a rower during his VI Form spring, stroking the second boat for coach David S.M. Lanier.

After St. Mark's he attended Stanford. He had a

long career as a petroleum products distributor, particularly with the Sure Oil and Chemical Company based in Worcester, Massachusetts. Active in local enterprises, he was a supporter of the American Antiquarian Society there. He retired to Nantucket with his wife, Happy.

He was predeceased by his wife, Harriet Coggins Miller, who passed away in 2017.

1948

Herbert Peter Pulitzer died on April 14, 2018. He was 88.

Given that Peter's uncle had graduated from St. Mark's in 1902 and his father, Herbert "Tony" Pulitzer, graduated from St. Mark's in 1915, his destination was predetermined.

At St. Mark's, Peter was a monitor, Prefect, form officer, and member of the Student Council. He was active on both the Entertainment and Dance Committees and sang in the Choir under director Stan Sheppard. He also appeared in Mr. Sheppard's 1947 musical comedy *Turn the Page*, and appropriately played a journalist in the Dramatic Club's production of Howard Koch's *In Time to Come* that same year. He had other small parts in earlier Dramatic Club productions. He also did well academically, was active in the School's chapel program, and served as a volunteer counselor at Brantwood Camp.

Upon his graduation from St. Mark's, Peter went to college but soon became bored and pursued a career that began with a liquor store and bowling alley and grew to include citrus groves, cattle ranches, a wildly popular Palm Beach restaurant, wide real estate holdings, and hotels. In 1950, he met his sister Patsy's friend, Lillian (Lilly) McKim. The two eloped, surprising everybody.

Lilly launched what would become a fashion empire of bright cotton dresses during their marriage. Peter helped her build her wildly successful fashion business as he continued building his own empire.

In the late '60s, with his friend, war hero Joseph Dryer, Peter founded an international hotel group with KLM Royal Dutch Airlines that later became the Hotel Pulitzer. He married twice more,

including Hilary King in 1986. They were together for 32 years, until his death. He died at home, surrounded by his children.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, grandchildren, and a wide circle of friends and extended family. His St. Mark's connections were legion: In addition to his father and his uncle, more than a dozen of his cousins across several generations—Pulitzers, Munns, Moores, and more—attended the School.

1950

Peter M. Webster passed away on March 18, 2020. He was 87.

Peter was one of St. Mark's first day students, along with his older brother, David Webster '47. During his time at the School, he played soccer and ice hockey, including as captain of the varsity hockey team that played at New York's Madison Square Garden in December 1949. Peter was also a Prefect and a member of the editorial boards of the *Vindex*, the *St. Marker*, and the *Lion*. He sang in the Choir and Glee Club, served on the Student Council, and was a Scholar. He won the Ely Prize for Public Speaking and was awarded the Dr. and Mrs. Thayer Scholarship.

As a VI Former, he and classmate Richard Wainwright established the School's first-ever radio station, "St. Mark's Radio."

Peter entered Yale but left college to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War. He earned a bachelor's degree in Russian history at the University of Texas at Austin. He then returned to Yale to receive a master's degree in education.

On graduating, he joined the National Security Agency in Washington, D.C., and from there went into the Foreign Service, where he served for two years as liaison to the Turkish Ministry of Education in Ankara, Turkey. However, academia was his true calling. His first teaching appointment was at the Hill School in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Hill's headmaster at the time was Edward T. Hall, St. Mark's Class of 1937, who had been assistant headmaster at St. Mark's during Peter's last two years in Southborough. Peter was chairman of the History Department and coached hockey and

From Roman legend, Androcles was a servant who removed a thorn from a lion's paw and was loyally rewarded by the lion in the Colosseum. The Trustees of St. Mark's wish to recognize the donors who have notified the School that they have provided for St. Mark's in their estate plans as members of the St. Mark's School Androcles Society. Donors receive special communications from the Head of School, invitations to events, and special recognition in School publications.

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soccer, and went on to serve as headmaster of Staten Island Academy in New York before taking the helm at Tabor Academy in 1976.

Peter was married to his loving wife, Natalie, for more than 60 years. He was predeceased by his older brother David, the only St. Marker killed in Vietnam. He is survived by his wife, Natalie; by their daughter Pamela, (Nicholls); son Peter Jr; four grandchildren; and brother John V. Webster of Camden, Maine.

1950

David Ross Winans passed away peacefully on January 28, 2020. He was 87.

At St. Mark’s, David was a Prefect and a member of both the soccer and crew teams and was an avid ice hockey player. He also sang in the Glee Club and was on the staff of both the Dramatic Club and the annual Musical Comedy. He served on the editorial board of the *Vindex*, was a member of the Creative Writing Club and the Radio Club, and was a cheerleader during football games. Exemplifying St. Mark’s spirit of service, David also worked for multiple summers as a counselor at Brantwood Camp.

David went on to Princeton University, but his studies were interrupted by a four-year stint in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict. On returning to Princeton he earned a BA with honors in English. Soon after he married Kathryn Wedemeyer and they had three children.

David was a publications manager at Electric Boat, General Dynamics for 37 years, producing all manuals for nuclear and non-nuclear submarines. He married his second wife Nancy in 1976 and they enjoyed their blended family for 43 years.

David was active in local politics in Salem, Connecticut, and was a president of the Manasota Key (Florida) Association. He was predeceased by his son, Wesley. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, four children: David III and wife Vicki of Westerly, Rhode Island; Melissa and husband Brian of Fairfax Station, Virginia; Peter and wife Marina of Salem, Connecticut; Molly and husband Rand of Hartford, Connecticut; and five grandchildren: Steven, Lauren, Amandine, Jesse, and Larkin.

1952

Weldon P. Benjamin passed away November 16, 2019, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer’s disease. He was 86.

Known as “Don,” he attended St. Mark’s for two years, playing JV football as a II Former. He then transferred to Kent School and went on to graduate from Boston University in 1957. In his first career he rose to the executive ranks within the insurance industry.

Don was known for his charm, dapper style, Hollywood looks, and non-judgmental manner. He loved to burst joyfully into song and waltz with the love of his life, Katie, who he married 59 years ago.

Don built a successful second career as a proud, independent salesman traveling throughout New England representing greeting card companies. While he traveled extensively, he managed to coach his sons’ baseball team.

He is remembered for being a devoted husband, a “jackpot” of a dad, his conversion to Catholicism 10 years ago, an avid cribbage player, and for his involvement in the choirs at both St. Gregory’s of Dorchester and St. Paul’s of Hingham, and with the Opals singing group.

He was predeceased by his twin children Timothy and Thomas, and his grandchildren Michael and Elizabeth Benjamin. Don is survived by his loving wife Katharine “Katie” Ford Benjamin of 59 years of Hingham and Marina Bay, Quincy; sisters Janice Mullen and her husband Gene of Norwell; and Constance Kelly and her husband Gerry of Plymouth.

Don leaves his sons Peter Benjamin and Peter’s wife Karen of Brewster; Michael Benjamin of Hingham; daughters Brooke Diesel-Veith and Brooke’s husband Cary of Sarasota, Florida, and Polly Pearson and her husband Kurt of Westborough; his grandchildren from Peter: Sara, Michael, and Esme; his grandchildren from Michael: Charlie and Harry; his grandchildren from Brooke: William, Caroline, and Ariana; and his grandchildren from Polly: Sophie, Margo, and Oscar; as well as his great-grandchildren from Peter’s son Michael and daughter-in-law Kristen: Logan and Paisley; and many nieces and nephews.

1952

St. Mark’s was saddened to learn of the passing of **Philip D. Isaac** on February 27, 2015, at the age of 80.

At St. Mark’s, Phil was a scholar and a member of both the Scientific Society and the Creative Writing Club. He served on the editorial board of the *Vindex*, managed the soccer team for coach Gaccon, and rowed on the crew. The summer before his VI Form year he served as a volunteer counselor at Brantwood Camp.

Phil attended the U.S. Naval Academy, earning his BS in engineering in 1956. He was a Navy flier, and in the summer of 1961, off Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, he became the first squadron pilot to land a jet on the USS Kitty Hawk.

He earned a JD in 1967 from University of San Diego School of Law, and had several memorable accomplishments as project director, chief counsel, and legal aid with the Society of San Diego.

Phil was a partner at Carlsmith Ball, a Honolulu law firm. He served as chief prosecutor and attorney general in the Republic of Palau (Western Caroline Islands). He was president of the Palau Bar Association for two terms, president of the Navy League of the United States (Guam Council) for two terms, and served as assistant attorney general of Guam for eight years.

He was survived by his wife, Patricia, and his son, Jeremy, as well as his sister, Elizabeth, his in-laws, and many nieces and nephews.

1952

Peter Corliss Turner passed away on March 22, 2020. He was 85.

At St. Mark’s, Peter was a Prefect, a member of the Choir and Glee Club, and served as vice president of the Scientific Society. He was active with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, was a tech-savvy member of the stage crew, and was on the School’s Entertainment Committee. Peter played soccer for coach Bill Gaccon. He was captain during his VI Form season, helping to lead the Lions to their second consecutive second-place finish in the Private School League. Peter also was on the crew team, coached by David S.M. Lanier.

He went on to attend Trinity College and eventually earned an MBA at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Peter joined the Navy after graduating from Trinity and in 1960 married Katie.

After leaving active duty, Peter started a 20-plus year civilian career at the Aetna, first as an underwriter and later focusing on training and development. He completed his military service in the Naval Reserves, retiring as a commander. In 1983, he joined American Reinsurance as vice president.

Peter was very musical and loved singing and playing the piano. He was a master craftsman; he could draw, paint, and was very talented with woodworking.

He was an active volunteer for several churches and civic organizations, including the Seeing Eye, Red Cross, Lions Club, and Historical Society of Cranbury. A staunch supporter of equal opportunity, he was a founding member of the Newington Youth Soccer Club, starting a girls’ program in the 1970s—one of the first. He served the church in various capacities, as an Elder, sharing his expertise on the buildings and grounds committee and teaching Sunday school for many years.

A devoted family man, he is survived by his wife of nearly 60 years, Kathryn M. Turner of Plainsboro; his children Christopher, Lisa (Ed), Stephanie (Chris); his grandchildren Cristina, Nicolas, Jeffrey, Lindsay, Jacob, Kelcey, Patrick, and Courtney; his brother David Turner (Sally); and many others who loved him deeply, including special family friend Betty Anderson and his devoted Health Aide Abena.

1955

Laurent “Larry” Novikoff Horne passed away peacefully on July 7, 2019. He was 82.

Larry founded and was president of the Shortwave Radio Club for four years at St. Mark’s. Just three days before Prize Day in 1953, a powerful tornado cut a violent path from Worcester along the Worcester Turnpike into Southborough. Over the next couple of days, IV Former Larry Horne and other members of his club manned their shortwave radios, broadcasting Red Cross Tornado Relief and Civil Defense information to the local communities

and proving themselves a valuable resource in the recovery effort.

Also during his time at St. Mark’s, Larry was vice president of the Scientific Society, a three-year member of the French Club (he appeared in the annual “French play” in 1951 and 1953), an active participant in the Gun Club and on the Rifle team (utilizing the old rifle range in the basement of the School’s main building), and a Sunday School teacher. At Prize Day, he received the Physics Prize.

He attended Yale for a time and served in the U.S. Army, stationed for a while in Korea. He worked for many years as a radio broadcaster and also served on the board of the North Museum.

Larry first met his future wife, Mary, in 1954, heading into his VI Form year. They reconnected and married at the dawn of the 21st century. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Emily Horne of New York, New York; Mary’s children: Elizabeth “Duffy” Johnson, Mary Burton (James) Mays, and Edward C. (Heidi) Burton; and also by his grandchildren: Christi, Taylor, Amanda, Brian, Savannah, Bethany, and Tyler; and one great-granddaughter, Addison Rose.

1956

George Rodman Rowland Jr. passed away on March 1, 2020. He was 82.

Known to his friends as “Rod,” he was a Prefect and a member of the St. Mark’s Athletic Association. He played football and was a defenseman on the hockey team. He also served on the Student Council, was vice president of the Brotherhood Club, was a member of the Dance Committee, and sang in Stan Sheppard’s Choir and Glee Club. He also took part in Mr. Sheppard’s musical comedy revue *Wild Oats* in spring 1956.

Rod graduated from Yale in 1960 and spent two years in the Navy. In 1964, he married Barbara Van Horne Rowland. He then began a 38-year career working for his one and only employer, John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance of Boston.

Throughout his life, Rod participated on numerous nonprofit boards. He was a trustee for the Heritage Museums and Gardens in Sandwich, Massachusetts, the executive committee for the

Osterville Historical Society, and served as president of the Larz Anderson Auto Museum in Brookline. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Barbara, and his two daughters, Linda and Amy.

1957

Howard O. Sturgis Jr. died on July 9, 2018, after an extended illness. He was 79.

While boarding at St. Mark’s, Howie was a member of both the soccer and crew squads; in the winter he managed the varsity hockey team for coach Bill Barber. He also served as a student librarian and was a Chapel usher.

Howie matriculated at Colorado College but later transferred to the University of Alaska, graduating with a degree in education and a commission as a second lieutenant through the University’s Army ROTC program. Trained as a helicopter command officer, he received the Air Medal (with two oak clusters) and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Howie earned his master’s degree from the University of Alaska’s North Star College. His last post was at Fort Stewart, Georgia. He retired with the rank of captain.

He married Donna Marie Helverson Smith, a widow, and they raised 10 children. He taught in the Ware County School District

Howie was predeceased by his wife, Donna, who died just six months before his passing, and by two stepdaughters. He is survived by eight children, 13 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, his sister Ellie, and numerous nieces, nephews, and loving friends.

1963

Thomas Mifflin Hughes died peacefully April 13, 2020, following complications caused by COVID-19. He was 75.

At St. Mark’s, Tom was a Prefect and a debater. He was on the wrestling team as a IV and V Former and played soccer in his VI Form fall. His game of choice, however, was fives, which he played enthusiastically all four years at the School. He sang for four years in the Choir and the Glee Club under legendary director Stan Sheppard, and he was a member of the Octet. He was also on the Bridge

team. Tom was active in the Chapel program. He was involved with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, and was a member of the Acolyte Guild, serving as crucifer at services in Belmont Chapel.

He went on to earn both his BA and master’s in education from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He was a teacher, an adventurer, skier, outdoorsman, singer, and lover of the arts and chess. In 1979, Tom married Susan O’Donnell, now Susan O’Donnell-Dicken (husband Ross Dicken). He was first and foremost a devoted father and caring friend. He was best known for his bright smile, eagerness to help, and “heard ’em a million times” dad jokes.

Tom was predeceased by his brother Gordon. He is survived by his former wife Susan; his daughters, Jenny and Megan; his brother Gerry (SM Class of 1966) and his wife, Jill; his sister-in-law, Myra Hughes; his nephew, Gordon Hughes Jr.; and his granddaughter, Seraphina.

1963

Reto Warrington Morosani died unexpectedly on January 5, 2020. He was 74.

In Southborough, Reto was a Prefect and he wrestled for Fritz Wiedergott. Of his VI Form wrestling season, coach Wiedergott wrote that Reto “stepped into positions vacated by injuries and filled them with honor.” He was a scholar, active in Lion Key, and a member of the Scientific Society. He also volunteered as a counselor at Brantwood Camp.

He received his bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Middlebury College and continued studies toward his masters at New York University’s Courant Institute while working for American Cyanamid as a scientific programmer. (One of the mainframe programs he wrote measured gas chromatographs; the different colored glow-in-the-dark necklaces or wands are fun benefits of his programming.)

He also did programming for many insurance companies in the greater Hartford area, including Aetna, Cigna, and United HealthCare, until he retired again.

Reto was a member of the board of directors of the Litchfield Cemetery Association and a member

of the Litchfield Country Club. He is survived by his wife, Marana (Polly) Brooks and his sons Reto Nicholas Morosani (Plano, Texas) and Alessandro Brooks Morosani (Litchfield, Connecticut). Additionally, he is survived by two brothers, George Morosani (Asheville, North Carolina) and John Morosani (Litchfield, Connecticut), a sister, Rosalie (Roopa) Morosani (Emerald Hills, California), and marvelous nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by a brother Remy (Cici) Morosani; two sisters, Virginia M. Smith and Francesca M. Thompson, M.D.; and a son, Remy B. Morosani.

1965

Nathaniel Thayer Mason passed away on November 21, 2019. He was 72.

Since his father, John A. Mason, was a member of the St. Mark’s Class of 1930, Nat followed the family tradition and went to school in Southborough.

At St. Mark’s he was a Prefect, a scholar, and editor-in-chief of the *St. Marker*. He played both soccer and lacrosse and was a member of the 1964 lacrosse team that won the Masters Lacrosse League championship. He also played fives. In addition, Nat was active in the Dramatic Club, the Scientific Society, and the Acolyte Guild.

He went to Dartmouth College and then to Dartmouth’s Amos Tuck School of Business Administration, where he earned his MBA. Then, after two years of teaching and two years’ service in the U.S. Army, Nat began a career in banking. He worked for Mellon Bank of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; in Frankfurt, Tokyo, and London; the Arab Bank of Amman, Jordan in London; and became the financial director for the Cape Cod Commercial Fishermen’s Alliance until his retirement in 2011.

While living in England from 1988 until 2001, he was a member of and publicity officer for the British Long Distance Swimming Association. He competed in and completed most of their annual events including twice a swim of Lake Windermere, 10 ½ miles. He also was treasurer of the Channel Swimming Association. He was the final swimmer of a six-person relay team that crossed the English

Channel from Dover to Cap Gris Nez, France, in 14 hours and 32 minutes. He later made three attempts to swim from Monomoy, Massachusetts, to Nantucket but without success.

He was a longtime member of Stage Harbor Yacht Club and served on the Conservation Commission in Chatham, was treasurer for the Friends of Chatham Waterways, and internal auditor of the Oyster River Swim Team.

Nat is survived by his wife of 49 years, Sara, of London and W. Chatham; two daughters, Louisa of Helsingborg, Sweden, (married to Robert Mason) with sons David and Joshua; and Rebecca of London, England, (partner to Oliver Bates) with daughters Elizabeth and Klara. He also is survived by his brothers, John of Chatham and Nicholas of Simsbury, Connecticut.

1965

Edmund Lee Wadhams died on March 21, 2018, of natural causes. He was 70.

Edmund was a Prefect and a scholar at St. Mark’s. He served as business manager of the *Lion*, circulation manager of the *Vindex*, and as an associate editor of the *St. Marker*. He enjoyed theatrics, appearing in the Lower School Play, the French Play, and with the Dramatic Club. He was manager of both varsity soccer and varsity ice hockey, and he was active with both the Lion Key Society and the Acolyte Guild.

He graduated from Yale in 1969, a member of the last all-male undergraduate class at Yale. He worked for at least one summer at the French Language School/Camp, École Acadie in Bar Harbor, Maine, and also worked for Air France.

Edmund was proud to be a direct descendant of Richard Henry Lee, signer of the Declaration of Independence. He traveled widely, often in the company of friends and his beloved dog.

He is survived by his half-sister Katherine W. Cox (Charles) of Haverford, Pennsylvania, and her mother, stepsister Nina S. Talbot (James) of Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, and stepbrother William L. E. Sinkler Jr. (Fran) of Charlestown, Rhode Island. He also leaves behind many cousins and friends.

1974

Alvah Allen Hardy II passed away January 10, 2020, from injuries received in an automobile accident. He was 63.

A native of Lakeland, Florida, Alvah followed his older brother to St. Mark’s, where he enjoyed music and was a member of Fritz Wiedergott’s varsity lacrosse team. Academically, he particularly appreciated the course in technical drawing taught by veteran Art Teacher John Carey. Thanks to his Florida roots, his nickname at St. Mark’s was “Gator.”

He studied architecture at the University of Florida and at Georgia Tech, earning his master’s in architecture from the latter. His architectural career took him into public service, including as executive director of facilities management for Collier County Public Schools executive director of facilities services for Atlanta Public Schools. He guided major building projects, including the renovation of a historic school, and was admired and respected by everyone involved.

Maria Saporta, a longtime Atlanta business, civic, and urban affairs journalist called Alvah “a true public servant.” She wrote that “our local governments need more people like Hardy—people who respect and value public discourse and compromise.”

He was very passionate about Blues music, Formula 1 racing, and riding his motorcycle—especially in the mountains of North Georgia. He was a lifelong Episcopalian. He was a loving and caring husband, father, and brother.

He is survived by his loving wife and best friend, April Henderson Hardy of Smyrna and Hiawassee; four children, Katherine Hardy of Satellite Beach, Florida; Jacqueline Hardy of Orlando; William and Stephanie Hardy of Orlando; Melissa Kimball of Smyrna; one brother, Harvey Hardy (SM Class of 1969) of Orlando; two sisters and one brother-in-law, Barbara and Don Luikart and Cheryl Hardy all of Tampa; his mother-in-law, Joyce Henderson of Smyrna; nieces and nephews: Monica, Alice, Theo, John, Laura, Vlad, and Karly; several great-nieces and great-nephews; and many other loving relatives and dear friends.

1978

Douglas Bradlee Blanchard died on May 10, 2019. He was 59.

Born in Rhode Island, Doug lived in the Boston area before his family moved to California.

At St. Mark’s, Doug played varsity soccer (the team was 7-2-3 his VI Form year) and varsity lacrosse. He also was active in a number of campus organizations and he was a successful volunteer counselor at Brantwood Camp.

He went on to Hartwick College and in 1981, he married his college sweetheart, Jackie Kuebker. They had two children. Doug was a longtime volunteer with the Oregon Country Fair and he was also a die-hard Grateful Dead fan. He is fondly remembered as “a great friend” whose “unconditional love will never be forgotten.”

He is survived by his wife, Jackie; their son, Douglas Jr., and daughter, Tara Lynn Wolsborn; three grandchildren: Bradlee, Brayden, and Charlie Rae; Doug’s sisters: Pamela (Terry) Bennett and Holly (Wayne) Koberstein; his brothers: Kurt (Jackie) Blanchard and Larry (Melody) Blanchard; and many nieces and nephews.

1978

Duncan F. Gardner died on March 14, 2020. He was 58.

The son of St. Mark’s faculty member Bruce Gardner and longtime Fay School art teacher Audrey Gardner, Duncan came to Southborough from Maine, where his father had been teaching and coaching at Hebron Academy. At St. Mark’s, he played hockey and made many friends.

Duncan went on to attend both the University of Maine at Orono and then the University of New Hampshire before starting his career as a landscaper, keeping very busy for many years in the New England area. He eventually moved to Hawaii, where he spent 10 years before returning to Massachusetts to help care for his father. He last visited the St. Mark’s campus in 2019, for his father’s memorial service in Belmont Chapel.

He was predeceased by his parents. He is survived by his sister, Beth McCabe, of Northborough, Massachusetts; his niece Elise; and many other

family members and friends.

1981

Robert Henry Venno II passed away peacefully on November 9, 2019, after battling frontotemporal dementia for two years. He was 56.

Bobby attended St. Mark’s for three years before transferring to Ashland High School. He then received a bachelor’s degree in business administration from the University of Massachusetts and an MBA from the College of William and Mary in 1997. While in graduate school, he was selected to do an internship with Credit Suisse Bank in London. In 2001, he was awarded the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Charter. A second master’s in finance was awarded from Boston College in 2009. He spent more than 30 years in the banking and investment industries. His most recent position was with the FDIC as a senior complex financial institution analyst.

He was married to Meg Mitchell and spent the last 18 years together. In addition to his wife, Bob is survived by his uncle, Bob Wilson and his wife Elaine of Uxbridge, Massachusetts; his aunt, Nancy Wilson of Center Harbor, New Hampshire; his aunt, Ethel Kelly of Watertown, Massachusetts; his uncle, Joe Veno of York, Maine; and a large in-law family, several nephews, and many close friends.

1989

James Laurence Sheerin died on October 11, 2019, as the result of a car accident. He was 48.

Jay (as he was then called) came to Southborough from San Antonio, Texas. He made many friends; one of these, classmate Priscilla Fingleton, eventually became his wife.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Boston University and managed his family’s ranch in Texas. He also initiated the largest wind power operation in the Rio Grande Valley. After moving to Colorado Springs, he established Polecat Designs, a new company making snowboarding accessories.

He and his wife had two daughters. Jay’s friends and family loved his deep baritone voice, his unique sense of humor, and his loyalty. He was predeceased by his father and his sister Stephanie. He is survived

by Priscilla (SM 1989), his wife of 20 years; his two daughters, Abigail (16) and Rosie (12), of Hailey, Idaho; his mother Betty Lou Sheerin of San Antonio, Texas; and his sister Andrea Kate Sheerin of San Antonio, Texas.

1990

Jesse Charles Cohen died on October 18, 2019. He was 47.

Jesse had what one person recently described as “a megawatt smile,” a smile as wide and sparkling and pure as one of his favorite places: Farm Pond, in Sherborn, Massachusetts.

He attended the Fay School before matriculating at St. Mark’s, where he was a Monitor and a member of the Student Congress, a peer counselor, and a fire captain. He played football on the varsity team and was a model student, a natural leader, and a loyal friend. Kind to everyone, he had an easy charm and charisma that drew people to him.

Jesse graduated from Brandeis University and earned a law degree from Tulane University. He practiced law in Massachusetts before moving to Florida, where he met his wife, Mari.

He is survived by his wife, Mariene Padua Cohen; his daughter, Shayna Cohen; his parents, Leona Atkins and Paul Cohen; his siblings, Emily Becker and husband Ira; Alison Chappell (St. Mark’s Class of 1992) and husband Chris; Jordana Linder (St. Mark’s Class of 2000) and husband Justin; and his nieces and nephews: Jonathan Becker, Madelyn Becker, William Chappell, Benjamin Chappell, Nola Linder, and Nathaniel Linder.

2002

Shamel Lakiem Good passed away December 25, 2019. He was 37.

Shamel was an outstanding basketball player at St. Mark’s, playing a significant role on coach David Lubick’s early championship teams. He was a member of the St. Mark’s 1000-point club, achieving that milestone during his VI Form season.

He continued his fine play at New York’s Globe Technical Institute, a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association, where he

averaged better than five assists per game as a point guard. He went on to graduate from the City College of New York.

Shamel lived and worked in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Covington, Georgia, before returning to Brooklyn, New York. He was a devout Christian and held fast to a strong faith.

He is survived by family and friends who mourn his passing deeply and who celebrated his life with a service at Praise Tabernacle in Jamaica, New York, where candles were lit in his loving memory.

2003

Joshua Aaron Gitlitz passed away November 20, 2019. He was 34.

Josh was the captain of the golf and squash teams at St. Mark’s. He also served as a Library Prefect. He went on to earn his undergraduate degree from Tulane’s Freeman School of Business. A lover of travel and adventure, he attended Semester at Sea while in college. He received his MBA from Columbia.

After college, Josh started a career in finance, trading, and wealth management. He worked in Singapore at the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group and then at Clarkson’s. He eventually moved to the San Francisco Bay area, briefly as a senior analyst for U.S. Capital Partners Inc. and then as chief investment officer for Wolf Aaron Risk Capital. He also did consulting work and helped raise money for various startups.

“In his world,” wrote his family, “Josh gets to eat all the candy he wants (especially Sour Patch Kids), sleep until his heart is content, be warm in his surroundings, and job security is exactly 110 percent. As Josh’s bonus, we all get to be here together, remember the good times, and cherish and love him unconditionally. Josh is watching over all his loved ones. Josh is our guardian; our light. Truly a beautiful soul, he was loved by everyone.”

He is survived and will be remembered lovingly by his mother Louise, his father David, and his sisters Alexandra and Natasha.

FORMER FACULTY/STAFF AND ST. MARK’S FAMILY
The Reverend Edwin Ward, former St. Mark’s

teacher, coach, and chaplain, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2019. He was 92.

Rev. Ward arrived at St. Mark’s in 1950 to teach history and serve as assistant business manager. Two years later, encouraged by then-St. Mark’s Chaplain Harry Trefry, he left the faculty to enter the Virginia Theological Seminary. He received his M. Div. in 1955 from VTS, where he was student body president. After his ordination as an Episcopal priest, he served for four years as vicar of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Troy, Alabama.

In 1959, Rev. Ward returned to St. Mark’s School, ready to assume the responsibilities of assistant chaplain under Mr. Trefry. He taught religion and also introduced a seminar course in theology for adults in the school community. He eventually succeeded to the position of head chaplain at St. Mark’s.

In 1965, he became headmaster of the Salisbury School in Connecticut. He was president of the National Association of Episcopal Schools from 1970-1973. Evidence of his lasting legacy at Salisbury includes the Ward Prize, presented annually to the graduate who exemplifies his quiet leadership, and Ward House, the dormitory named in his honor.

After 16 years at Salisbury, he assumed the headmastership of St. Stephen’s School in Alexandria, Virginia, and finished his career as president of Flint Hill School in Oakton, Virginia, which he founded in 1990.

He was married to his beloved wife, Alleine, for 61 years. After retirement, Rev. Ward served as pastoral associate at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church on Hilton Head for eight years. He remained an involved parishioner until his death.

In May 2015, accompanied by his daughter, Rev. Ward visited St. Mark’s, meeting with Head of School John C. Warren ’74 and then touring the campus. He also had the opportunity to sit down with current St. Mark’s Head Chaplain Barbara Talcott. Rev. Ward and Rev. Talcott talked at length about church schools and chaplaincy. After visiting Belmont Chapel, Rev. Ward and his daughter took their leave of St. Mark’s, on their

way to Salisbury for reunion weekend there.

Rev. Ward was an important part of St. Mark’s history, and with such visits are old memories rekindled, people remembered, stories recalled, and the traditions and legacies of a school community are preserved and cherished.

Rev. Ward was predeceased by his wife, Alleine. He is survived by his son Edwin Michael Ward Jr. (Mary) of Winnetka, Illinois, his daughter Juliet Ward Flood (Brian) of Wilmette, Illinois; his grandchildren Elisabeth Ballard Ward, Edwin Michael Ward III (Teddy), and Catherine Westbrook Flood; and multitudes of former students who recall him with fondness.

Tommy Don Cowgill, former St. Mark’s faculty member, died on February 3, 2020, of complications from Parkinson’s Disease. He was 83.

Tommy had a long career as a high school math teacher, technology teacher, and coach that spanned some 35 years and included stints at some of the finest independent schools in the nation. He taught at St. Mark’s School of Texas and Kent School in Connecticut before being brought to Southborough in 1971 by then-headmaster Ned Hall.

Tommy taught math at St. Mark’s for seven years, where he was also an advocate for curricular innovation. In 1973 he proposed the concept that would come to be called December Week. It took place during the last week of the fall term, replacing the traditional mid-year exams. There were no classes and sports were optional. Instead, each student would sign up for a single week-long “course;” five hours a day of concentrated involvement in a single activity. It was, in many ways, a precursor to today’s Lion Term.

He left St. Mark’s to teach at Cushing Academy. He continued his interest in outside-the-box progressive educational programming by directing the summer elder hostel there. After seven years at Cushing, he took a year off to drive across the continent and see the country.

In 1954, he married Kathryn (Vest) Cowgill. They had three children. Divorced in 1973, in 1986 he married Bette Sloat. Longtime St. Mark’s Art Teacher John Carey was his best man. He

concluded his teaching career with a decade at Hebron Academy in Maine. Tom and Bette then retired to their beloved home on Cape Cod in 1998.

He is survived by his three children: Terry (SM ’76) and wife Laura and their family in Lakeville, Connecticut; Robin (SM ’78) Greland and husband John and their family in Hanover, Massachusetts; and Leanne (SM ’80) of Dennis, Massachusetts; three stepchildren: Jason Piccin of Watertown, Massachusetts; Lisa Piccin Grant of Santa Barbara, California; and Amy Piccin of Fall River, Massachusetts; and eight grandchildren.

Tim Pettus, former St. Mark’s faculty member, passed away on February 1, 2020. He was 75.

Tim arrived at St. Mark’s in 1984 and was Math Department chair for much of his 17 years at the School. From 1984 through 1987 he was head coach of girls’ varsity soccer.

During his sabbatical year in 1987, he taught at the Shore School in New South Wales, Australia. This gave him a taste for international education and after leaving St. Mark’s in 2001, he spent 11 years teaching math in China as part of the School Year Abroad program.

He will always be remembered as an innovative teacher, a loyal friend, and a true gentleman.

Tim is survived by his wife, Mary, longtime librarian at St. Mark’s; his three children: Sarah (SM Class of 1988), Tim Jr., and Stephen (SM ’00); and five grandchildren.

We were saddened to learn that **Gwythian Evill**, widow of longtime St. Mark’s faculty member and one-time acting headmaster Bill Evill, died on October 18, 2019. She was 90.

Mary Gwythian Shearme came from Looes, Cornwall, a small fishing village on the southeast coast of Britain. The couple married on December 22, 1967.

During her time on campus, Gwythian became the last great doyen of St. Mark’s events, regularly organizing Parents’ Weekend, hosting alumni receptions and teas for guests, arranging for flowers and other decorations at various St. Mark’s celebrations,

and taking under her wing a generation of faculty spouses, as had so many before her. She also hosted student parlors, welcoming new St. Markers to campus and keeping a watchful eye on older students. She performed these roles while her husband was dean of students, during his tenure as acting headmaster (1978-79), and while he was dean of faculty (1979-1984).

Bill died in 2004. In 2014, Gwythian moved into The Residence at Cedar Dell in Dartmouth, Massachusetts. She kept up a correspondence with old St. Mark’s friends and alumni for several years. She is survived by three nieces: Philippa Gerret, Carolyn Arnold, and Clare Maher, all of whom live in England.

Carol Rader, wife of longtime St. Mark’s faculty member Dick Rader, passed away peacefully on November 28, 2019. She was 87.

Born Carol Parsons, she married Dick Rader in 1954. They arrived on the St. Mark’s campus in the autumn of 1959.

At St. Mark’s, Carol was an active faculty wife for more than 40 years, in the tradition of private boarding schools everywhere. She welcomed students—her husband’s advisees, younger students for the customary at-home “parlor” evenings, and others—into her home, and she particularly enjoyed arranging the flowers in Belmont Chapel. An accomplished violinist, she performed at many St. Mark’s events, supporting concerts by the School Choir and augmenting performances by the student orchestra. In 1974, with two other faculty spouses and eight girls from the Southborough School, she joined Stan Sheppard’s St. Mark’s Choir to establish the first officially co-ed singing ensemble in St. Mark’s history.

Carol also sang with Southborough’s Pilgrim Church choir for many years, and she enjoyed knitting as well. With her husband’s retirement from St. Mark’s, the Raders moved to Framingham; but they often returned to campus for events such as concerts and for annual Reunion celebrations.

In addition to her husband she leaves her sons, Richard Jr. and Charles; their wives; and three grandchildren.

Who was your favorite St. Mark’s faculty member? What was your favorite St. Mark’s class?



Stan Sheppard, 1969

“Could’ve been Sleepy Saunders or Roland Saywer (math) or Stan Sheppard (music). I kept in touch with Stan until the end. I would stop at his house during reunions and say ‘hi.’ I still love that man. Of course, there was Bill Barber, but I preferred him on ice. I loved hockey more than the classics—actually, more than anything.”

—LOUIS MACKALL ’58

“Walter Badger inspired me to become an English teacher, which I have been for 46 years. I continue to apply his approaches.”

—JOHN CURTIS ’54

“‘Doc’ Sheppard and Butch Sawyer.”

—ROBERT LEESON ’51

—CROSBY ‘JC’ BROWN ’75

“English class with Mr. Badger.”

—ARMANDO GARCÉS EDER ’58

—LAURENCE (LARRY) CASTELLI ’80

“Stan Sheppard (music) and Charles Chatfield (English).”

—GEOFFREY PLATT, JR. ’59

—MEG LANDRY ’87

“I enjoyed Latin with Bill Glavin. Once our class dressed in togas and walked outside speaking Latin to each other. Some classmates threw water balloons at us from a third-floor dorm.”

—DAVID DICICCO ’59

“Art and Art History with Bill Boyhan, who taught us etching (and patience). I learned much about art history and went on to teach both for 27 years. I have to include technical drawing with John Carey and the love and acceptance that both John and Eve had for all of us wayward boys. I also find myself having mental conversations with Fritz (Wiedergott). God Bless them all.”

“Mr. Glavin (Latin IV) and Mr. Wales (calculus).”

“Classics with Mr. Glavin.”

“AP History with Mr. Lyons and Independent Study with Rev. Hannibal.”

—TONY SAMMARTINO ’97

“Art History, which sparked a lifetime love and appreciation of arts including receiving my master’s from Christie’s Auction House in New York and serving on the board of The American Federation of the Arts for over 10 years.”

—ALEXANDRA DOAN DRUCKER ’97

“Latin with Mr. Conti and Greek with Dr. Hartnett.”

—CARRIE BRYANT ’04

“Dick Radar (physics) and Tom Wales (math).”

—ED TAFT ’69

“Latin, with Conti and Unger. I think about those classes daily.”

—ROGER HUNT III ’04

NEXT ISSUE

What was
your favorite
place on the
St. Mark’s
campus?



Send your answers to
editor@stmarksschool.org.

“Studio 1, 2, and 3 with Ms. Putnam. She inspired me to pursue a career in art education.”

—KATE (BRYANT) NORDSTROM ’04

“Academically, Mr. Berryman (AP Music Theory). In terms of extracurriculars, squash with Coach Suitor and Coach Shartin. Both squash and music continue to be defining elements in my life.”

—ANDREW KIM ’07

“DNA Science with Dr. Decker. It was a fascinating class that helped me immensely with my neuroscience degree in college. Mr. Henry Large was by far one of my favorite teachers. I made sure that every year I took one of his history classes.”

—ROBERT STORCK ’08

“My favorite class was ‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp; my favorite teacher was Mr. Dolesh.”

—MARCIA LAPLANTE ’16

“Favorite classes were ‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp and Literature on Trial with Ms. Matthews; favorite teachers were Ms. McBride (calculus), Mr. Lester (statistics), and Mr. Geraghty. Love those teachers and will never forget those classes!”

—MAEVE MCCUINE ’17

“‘Getting Lost’ with Mr. Camp and ‘The Dystopian Flood’ with Ms. Hultin were my favorites for sure!”

—TOM PAUGH ’19



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